

Recap of the Hillsborough County Diversity Advisory Council Meeting February 3, 2016

The February 3, 2016 Hillsborough County Diversity Advisory Council (DAC) meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Hung Mai. Members in attendance were: Chair Hung Mai, Vice-Chair Marcia Minutello, Becki Forsell, Gary Howell, Satish Sharma, Francis Joseph, Frank Roder, Robert Chen, David Chiriboga, Becki Forsell, Nestor Ortiz, Tonni Bacoat-Jones and Gamal Gasser. Members absent: Annie Thompson, Terry Kemple and Roxanne Bartley. Quorum was met. Staff present were: Operations and Legislative Affairs Officer Brandon Wagner, Tony Morejon and Carmen LoBue Office of Community Affairs.

Public Comment: The first speaker, Ms. Melinda Wheatley spoke on behalf of the Hillsborough County Alliance for Citizens with Disabilities in inception since 1994. They are a coalition of 40 groups who focus on many areas of diverse services for people with disabilities. The Alliance extended an invitation to the DAC for participation at their annual July American with Disabilities Act Celebration at MOSI. She proposed a partnership with unity through diversity. Councilmember Chen volunteered to facilitate a culture-awareness workshop to engage different ethnic groups and educate on cultural differences. Councilmember Joseph asked for the Alliance demographic data on different ethnic groups that use their services for public outreach purposes. The second speaker, Mr. Ziad Taha represented the Islamic community of Tampa, one of the largest muslim communities with 40,000 members. He spoke of the community charity program called Project Downtown where USF students prepare food for the homeless. Radiant Tents for refugees. He will be presenting culture at the DAC April event. Councilmember Gasser said Mr. Taha will be facilitating for the Middle Eastern community at the DAC event. He said the purpose is to promote the Muslim people not the religion. Third speaker was Mr. David McCallister who expressed disappointment with not being allowed to participate as one of showcased groups at the DAC April event. He mentioned SB 154 and three initiatives that he feels are an attack on the indigenous southern Americans he represents. He said the Sons of the Confederate Veterans participated on the Dixie County Parade. He intends to apply for a seat on the DAC.

Commissioner Beckner called and thanked councilmembers for their work and commitment. He said he will attend the DAC April event and considers it will be one of the most important events as an implementation of the DAC mission. He applauded their efforts.

Approval of January 6, 2016 Meeting Recap: Vice-Chair Minutello motioned to approve the recaps, seconded by Councilmember Roder and unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- Finalize April 16 Festival Program – Chair Mai spoke words of encouragement. Councilmember Chen asked for a flyer for distribution. Members discussed sponsors, entertainment and commitments to participate in the April event. Councilmember Ortiz explained the Program to include primary groups (three-four max. organizations that each group showcase with entertainment located within the internal area) and secondary groups (located on the exterior perimeter area.) In consideration of the Best Buddies Friendship walk occurring on the same date at Cotanchobee Park from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, the DAC event time was rescheduled to start at 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Councilmember Chiriboga made a motion to approve the new time, seconded by Councilmember Ortiz and unanimously approved. Councilmembers agreed on the following Timeline for entertainment presentations:

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- o Indian – Mr. Sharma (11:30 AM – 11:55 AM)
- o Asian – Mr. Chen (12:00 PM – 12:25 PM)
- o Middle Eastern – Mr. Gasser (12:30 PM – 12:55 PM)
- o People with Disabilities – Ms. Minutello and Ms. Forsell (1:00 PM – 1:25 PM)
- o Youth – Mr. Roder (1:30 PM – 1:55 PM)
- o Caribbean – Mr. Joseph (2:00 PM – 2:25 PM)

Chair Mai explained the Asian community participation to include: medical screening, dragon dance, musical and fashion show. They will provide ethnic food samples as a promotion of the food trucks. Councilmember Ortiz will provide packet information including a welcome letter to invited groups, letter of expectation and brochure.

DAC discussed the event task list and assignments such as: Logistics, Program & Speakers; Printed material and mailings; and Day of logistics. Chair Mai announced Councilmember Annie Thompson stepped down from her seat at the council. He asked Councilmember Bacoat-Jones to take over Ms. Thompson's tasks.

Councilmember Forsell asked to ensure available equipment is accessible.

Councilmember Ortiz proposed a Saturday training session for volunteers, groups and Councilmembers a week prior to the event. He said the majority of the budget will be consumed in marketing (banners, flyers and brochures.)

Sponsors will not be used. Ethnic groups are welcomed to promote their culture with food and cultural items. Councilmember Forsell proposed to invite Sam's Club to attend the event and will encourage them to market the DAC event.

New Business:

- Workgroup updates
 - o Group 1 – Building awareness among different groups – April 16, 2016 DAC event. Councilmember Gasser presented Mr. Ziad Taha as the facilitator who will showcase the Middle Eastern community.
 - o Group 2 – No updates
 - o Group 3 – Leveraging DAC member engagement – Staff was directed to finalize Vice Chair Minutello's proposed "thank you" letter to the Diversity Challenge summit attendees.

Announcement:

- February 7, 2016 - Orlando Youth Empowerment Summit
- May 8, 2016 - Empower Tampa

Adjournment: 8:45 PM; Next Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 6:30 PM.

** Staff directives underlined