

Recap of the Hillsborough County Diversity Advisory Council (DAC) Meeting August 3, 2016

The August 3, 2016 Hillsborough County Diversity Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Acting Chair Marcia Minutello. Members present: Marcia Minutello, Francis Joseph, Gamal Gasser, Nestor Ortiz, Frank Roder, Robert Chen, Satish Sharma and Becki Forsell, Terry Kemple and Tonni Bacoat-Jones (was delayed). Members present via teleconference: Roxanne Bartley and Gary Howell. A quorum was present. Staff present: Carmen LoBue from the Office of Community Affairs and Brandon Wagner from the Office of Operations and Legislative Affairs.

Public Comment: Four people spoke during the Public Comment part of the meeting, as follows: Mr. Terence Wolfe said that in light of an absence of a quorum he deferred his presentation until next month; Ms. Holly Miles suggested adding time at the end of the meeting for public comment. She also recommended the DAC recruit high school students (9th to 12th graders) as volunteers which will help them with school requirements; Ms. Yvette Jones expressed interest in the DAC, as a veteran marine, disabled and business owner; and Mr. David McCallister was pleased of the action taken to fill in the DAC vacant seats. He stated that in conversations with Mr. Kemple he understood that an applicant could choose any category as representative of a group; therefore he expected all vacancies to be filled with the addition of categories as amended. He questioned why the DAC is not involved on reviews of the BOCC actions about the appropriateness of presenting proclamations to groups represented in the DAC. He advised the DAC to ask the BOCC to consider including them when dedications or recognitions are awarded to groups represented in the Council such as the E.J. Salcines statue as donated by the Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Committee. He said a mechanism is necessary for groups to go through the process of obtaining such recognitions and thinks the DAC is the Council to provide that.

Approval of July 6, 2016 Meeting Recap: Mr. Kemple noted an error on the date that former Chair Mai resigned to be corrected and state that his resignation was effective after the July meeting not the after the August meeting. Ms. Minutello noted an error on who seconded the motion to nominate Ms. Bartley. It should state it was Mr. Roder who seconded the nomination. Mr. Joseph made a motion to approve the revised recaps, seconded by Ms. Jones, and unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- Council vacancies update was provided by staff. Ms. Lobue reported that 34 complete applications have been received. The chosen categories include: 17 for African American; 4 for Caribbean; 3 for GLBT; 2 for Hispanic; 4 for Indian Asian; 2 for Middle Eastern; 6 for Northern & Southern European; 10 for People with Disabilities; 13 for At-Large; and 0 for Far East Asian.
- Highlight of the DAC presentation to the BOCC. Mr. Ortiz briefed them on the July 20th presentation to the BOCC. Staff emailed copies of the presentation to the Council. Mr. Ortiz stated that the presentation was well received by the Board and he thanked the Councils who attended the meeting. He praised Chair Mai's leadership on the Council.

New Business:

- Acting Chair Minutello reported consulting with County Attorney's office and receiving confirmation that the Chair is able to vote for Officers. Mr. Ortiz was elected Chair and Mr. Howell was elected Vice Chair, as follows:

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Mr. Kemple spoke of why he nominated Mr. Chen for Chair. He described him as an effective leader who advocates for constituents, plan activities, execute activities and bring people to the activities, seconded by Ms. Forsell, and approved by four member votes (Kemple, Forsell, Minutello and Chen).

Mr. Gasser explained why he nominated Mr. Ortiz. He credited Mr. Ortiz for the success of the DAC main event. He liked how Mr. Ortiz conducts himself and the group and thought him as a good leader, seconded by Mr. Sharma, and approved by seven member votes (Bartley, Howell, Jones, Gamal, Satish, Joseph and Ortiz).

Mr. Joseph described why he nominated Ms. Bartley and why she should be Vice-Chair. He recognized her participation and leadership in working with the sub group, meeting expectations in her role, and delivering an exemplary performance as showcased at the Interact Hillsborough event, and approved by four member votes (Kemple, Joseph, Jones and Howell).

Ms. Minutello stated her reason why she nominated Mr. Howell for Vice-Chair. She described him as a soft spoken member who attended all meetings, participated in all events, one whose stability and quiet demeanor provides a force that's a big contribution to the Council, approved by seven member votes (Minutello, Chen, Satish, Gasser, Ortiz, Forsell and Bartley).

- Ms. Minutello confirmed the completion of the letter from the DAC to the BOCC to recommend for consideration to add four categories to the DAC to include: Elderly (age range 60 year old and over); Refugee; Veterans; and Youth (age range 16 to 25 year old).
- Discussion on update of Strategic Plan - Ms. Minutello reported that in her review of the 2014 - 2015 Strategic Plan she found unused \$5,000 allocated for training. She explained that Group 2 –Youth project is the only one pending, Group 3 – Summit Challenge and Group 1 – Building Awareness was completed. She proposed a Strategic plan update including:
 - a needs analysis
 - a strategic implementation area
- Strategic Implementation Areas:
 - Group 1 – Building Awareness among Different Groups (completed).
 - Group 2 – Youth Concerns (pending).
 - Group 3 – Leveraging DAC Member Engagement (completed).

Announcements & Council Member Reports

Adjournment: Mr. Ortiz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by and approved by a unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.