

Members Present:

Andy Ansola
Roland A. Foulkes
Linda Houston-Jones (Treasurer)
Paul Hyman
Jaemi Levine (Chair)
Tom Runyan (Vice Chair)
Leilani Smith-Tellez (Secretary)
Sam Subramani

Members Absent: None

Guests: C.L. Foulkes

Staff: Al DiCalvo, Assistant County Attorney (Absent); Dalton Barrett, County Liaison, Helene Udell, Staff Liaison

The Broward County Diversity Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 6:38PM by Chair, Jaemi Levine. The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence.

Council Action Approval of Minutes

Sam Subramani moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Runyan and was passed unanimously by the membership.

Chair Report

The Chair reported that she has a list of inclusive playgrounds and would like to post it on the website. County Liaison, Dalton Barrett, will speak to Judy Sarver of Public Communications to determine whether or not the list can be posted.

Old Business

Parliament of the World's Religions: Leilani Smith-Tellez reported that her ad hoc committee will meet at 6:00 PM on February 19, 2009, in advance of the regular monthly meeting. The committee will draft a proposal for a signature event so that the proposal can be presented to the Board of County Commissioners in an attempt to obtain the Board's permission for the Diversity Advisory Council to promote or sponsor an event, conference or symposium. Roland Foulkes suggested that the Chair and Vice Chair speak with their appointing commissioners in order to discern whether or not the Commission might be amendable to the committee's proposal. Tom Runyan moved that the Council authorize the ad hoc committee to draft a letter proposal to present to the Board of County Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Linda Houston-Jones and was passed unanimously by the membership.

Roland Foulkes raised the issue of the stalled proclamation for Moremi Akinde. The Chair suggested that Mr. Foulkes attend the February executive committee meeting and that the issue be addressed at that time.

Roland Foulkes raised the issue of the accomplishments of the individual members and the suggestion that they be posted to the website. Mr. Foulkes distributed materials relevant to his own accomplishments and those of the Council in 2008.

Mr. Foulkes suggested that one of the Council's events, in line with its New Direction Policy, might involve the previously proposed joint meeting with the School Board's Diversity Committee. In September 2008 the Council sent a letter to the Board of County Commissioners seeking permission for a joint meeting. The Council has not received any response to its request and County Liaison, Dalton Barrett, will follow up on the status of the request.

New Business

Leilani Smith-Tellez motion that the Council recognize Marlene Wilson, recently retired Director of the Human Services Department, with a letter of appreciation. The motion was seconded by Linda Houston-Jones and was passed unanimously by the membership. Tom Runyan drafted a letter inviting the new Director, Susan Myers, to speak to the Council during the February meeting.

The issue of the Council's interest in the Caribbean Carnival was raised. The Assistant County Attorney, Al DiCalvo, advised that the dispute between the Carnival organizers and the Parks Department is not an area in which the Council should intervene. Mr. DiCalvo and Vice Chair, Tom Runyan, raised serious concerns about conflicts, and ethical issues for the Carnival principal, Andy Ansola, who is a member of the Council. It was suggested that County Administration and/or the Human Rights Board might be better venues for airing the dispute.

In light of the Board of County Commissioner's new policy, soon to be adopted, under which advisory boards and council will meet quarterly, unless more frequent meetings are required to carry out the business of the boards, Paul Hyman moved that the full Council meet during each "odd" month beginning in March 2009 while the executive committee will continue to meet monthly. The motion was seconded by Tom Runyan and was passed unanimously.

The Council discussed having guest speakers for future meetings. In addition to inviting Susan Myers, new Director the County's Human Services Department for the February meeting, Tom Runyan suggested the head of the Sheriff's Department's Diversity Taskforce for the March meeting and Roland Foulkes suggested County Administrator Bertha Henry for the May meeting.

Round-A-Bout

Paul Hyman advised the Council that the new meeting day, the third Thursday of the month, conflicts with his employer's board meeting. He will attempt to have that meeting day changed. If that is not possible, it was suggested that Mr. Hyman use the Council's teleconferencing system to call into the Council's meetings. Mr. Hyman advised that there will be a protest directed towards a production of the Rising Action Theater Company. Mr. Hyman suggested that members might want to attend in opposition to that protest on January 16, 2009 at 7:15PM.

Mr. Ansola announced that he will be in Trinidad in February and will call in for that meeting.

Linda Houston-Jones announced the 96th anniversary of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Tom Runyan announced that there is going to be a challenge to certain human rights ordinances in Gainesville (Alachua County) following the passage in November of Amendment II.

Leilani Smith-Tellez announced Coral Springs' Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events on January 15, 2009 and the Taste of India on January 25, 2009 also in Coral Springs.

Sam Subramani announced that he will advertise Council members' community events on his radio program on Saturdays from 5 to 6 PM.

Roland Foulkes announced a number of events including the National Urban Fellows Leadership event with a reception on January 15 at the Museum of Art and workshops on January 16 at the Gallery One Hotel. There will be an Inauguration event sponsored by the First Baptist Church at Piney Grove with a lunch and television broadcast of the Inauguration at the Hilton Deerfield Beach. On February 2 Mr. Foulkes will participate in the Broward Education Foundation teacher workshops.

Mr. Foulkes announced the passing of Jawhar Sadallah Badran. Mr. Badran was a member of the Diversity Committee of The School Board of Broward County, Florida. Mr. Foulkes nominated Mr. Badran, posthumously, for a Broward Diversity/Inclusion Leaders-In-Action Award.

Mr. Foulkes moved for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Andy Ansola and was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Leilani Smith-Tellez, Secretary

Date