

Members Present:

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

Guests: Susan Myers, Director, Broward County Human Services Department

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

The Broward County Diversity Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 6:45PM by Chair, Jaemi Levine. The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence. The members introduced themselves.

Guest speaker: Susan Myers, Director Broward County Human Services Department. Ms. Myers introduced herself to the Council and asked the Council for a brief overview of the Council's mission, history and goals. There was discussion and exchange of ideas and information.

Council Action Approval of Minutes

Roland Foulkes moved to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Linda Houston-Jones and was passed unanimously by the membership.

Chair Report

The Chair presented Linda Houston-Jones with a bouquet of roses to acknowledge a service award presented to Ms. Houston-Jones earlier in the month.

Old Business

Mr. Foulkes raised the issue of the pending proclamation for Moremi Akinde. Mr. Runyan is working on a revision to resubmit to the Board of County Commissioners. The revised proclamation will be provided to members of the Council for comment and with the proclamation will be finalized at the March meeting of the executive committee.

Parliament of the World's Religions: Leilani Smith-Tellez reported that her ad hoc committee was to have met prior to the general meeting however only Ms. Smith-Tellez was in attendance. Ms. Smith-Tellez spoke about the purpose of the Parliament; to foster peace, reinforce spirituality and inspire cooperation between different communities. She talked about the resources to be found among students, academics and faith-based communities. Also discussed was the possibility of Florida Atlantic University providing the venue. She suggested a one-day event including panel discussions, workshops, exhibits, ethnic food, performances and a keynote speaker.

Pending is the matter of the Council's request that the Board of County Commissioners authorize a joint meeting of the Council and the School Board's Diversity Committee. The original request was made in a letter dated September 5, 2008. The request has not been granted or denied.

New Business

Tom Runyan moved that the Council send a letter to the Commissioners to request that they fill their respective open seats on the Council. The motion was seconded by Linda Houston-Jones and was passed unanimously by the Council. In keeping with the same theme, the council members were asked to look for qualified, interested prospective members and to direct them to their respective Commissioners.

Leilani Smith-Tellez spoke about Coral Springs' State of the City event and noted that although the City put a great deal of effort and resources into the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. events that the City employees are not a diverse group. Mr. Foulkes commented on the lack of diversity among the Commissioners' staff members. Linda Houston-Jones will contact the Broward Office of Equal Opportunity to determine what the status of diversity is among Broward County employees.

Round-A-Bout

The members contributed various events during the Round-A-Bout including the funeral services for Mr. E. Pat Larkins. Mr. Foulkes was asked by the Chair to compile an event calendar. Mr. Foulkes deferred to Mr. Subramani who previously committed to that task.

Leilani Smith-Tellez moved for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Tom Runyan, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Leilani Smith-Tellez, Secretary

Date