

Members Present:

Andy Ansola
Michael Everett
Roland A. Foulkes
Linda Houston-Jones (Treasurer)
Paul Hyman
Shevrin Jones
Jaemi Levine (Chair)
Alice Levy
Abraham Rashid
Inez Romaguera
Tom Runyan (Vice Chair)
Leilani Smith-Tellez (Secretary)
Sam Subramani

Guests:

(By Telephone) Charlie _____, Pay It Forward
Jasmon Maxfield, Leaders By Empowerment, Activist By
Development, Inc.
Robert Arscott, Leaders By Empowerment, Activist By
Development, Inc.

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 6:40 PM by Chair, Jaemi Levine. The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence. The members introduced themselves.

Council Action Approval of Minutes

Michael Everett moved to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Linda Houston-Jones and was passed unanimously by the membership.

Chair Report: The Chair introduced the concept of “Pay It Forward” based on the book and movie of the same title. Charlie _____ of Pay It Forward Today (payitforwardtoday.org). Charlie spoke about the “Pay It Forward” bracelet, the move to create a national the recent establishment of “Pay It Forward Day” on April 30, 2009 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Chair would like the Council to seek a proclamation from the Board of County Commissioners. Charlie will send the proclamation to the Chair. Members will look at the payitforwardtoday.org and payitforwardday.com for materials related to the project and the Chair will forward materials that she receives to staff for dissemination to the Council members. Linda Houston-Jones moved to close the topic with the recommendations of the

Chair. The motion was seconded by Roland Foulkes and was passed unanimously by the membership.

The Chair report and presentation was followed by introductions by the newest members, Shevrin Jones, Abraham Rashid and Alice Levy.

Old Business

Signature Event Subcommittee Report: Leilani Smith-Tellez reported on the subcommittee meeting. The goal is to create an event inspired by the Parliament of the World's Religions rather than formally connected to the Parliament so the event is in need of a new title. The subcommittee is considering a Saturday in September or early November to bring people of different cultures bringing different perspectives on a common goal such as uplifting our youth, homelessness, or hunger, diversity in the workplace or overcoming religious prejudice. A venue is needed for 200-250 people including breakout rooms and an area for tables and exhibits by the participating groups. The agenda would include an opening event, perhaps a keynote speaker, followed by one or two panel discussions followed by lunch. The lunch break would be followed by workshops and then performances by representatives of the participating groups. All speakers and performers will be sought on a volunteer basis and it is expected that the participating groups will promote the event through their members.

Inez Romaguera suggested the Miramar Cultural Arts Center while Sam Subramani suggested the possibility of using one of the Broward County libraries and Ms. Houston-Jones suggested contacting Nova Southeastern University for collaboration and/or sponsorship. South Florida Diversity Alliance is scheduled to be launched on November 7, 2009 at Nova Southeastern University's Diversity Summit and Mr. Foulkes suggested avoiding a conflict with that date in scheduling the Diversity Advisory Council's event. Mr. Foulkes also suggested obtaining a speaker through the White House's Office of Faith Based Initiatives. Mr. Foulkes suggested incorporating the Census 2010 Full Count initiative into the event.

Tom Runyan suggested that the plan be put together specifically as to venue, program, theme, the panels, and that the Sub-Committee and Executive Committee be empowered, by specific direction, to complete the plan and prepare it to be submitted to the Commission. Instead of food vendors, a sheet of nearby restaurants will be provided. Michael Everett offered a motion that the Sub-Committee and Executive Committee be empowered to decide the issue of the panels, lunch, publicity, location, moving forward with the concept to the Commission, and the theme of the event. The motion was seconded by Leilani Smith-Tellez and was carried unanimously by the membership.

Moremi Akinde Proclamation: The Commission will issue a proclamation to Moremi Akinde on June 9, 2009 at 1:30PM. The membership is welcome to attend. Staff will send out a reminder notice. Mr. Foulkes shared information regarding an ordinance that will come before the Commission on the same date. That ordinance proposes to change the quorum requirements for the Council, the County division under which the Council is situated (from Family Success Administration to Program Development, Research & Evaluation Division), and the purpose of the Council pursuant to the New Direction document.

New Direction/Round-a-Bout (Critical/Urgent Broward Community Issues)/Announcements and Public Comment Mr. Jones moved that Round-a-Bout matters be submitted for the agenda at the Executive Committee meeting or by e-mail to staff prior to the Executive Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Linda Houston-Jones. The motion was passed unanimously.

Shevrin Jones discussed his background and *Leaders By Empowerment, Activist By Development, Inc.*, his not-for-profit organization. He works with young people and two of his interns, Jasmon Maxfield and Robert Arscott spoke to the Council as well.

Mr. Foulkes invited Mr. Jones, Mr. Maxfield and Mr. Arscott to the meeting of the School Board Diversity Committee on May 22, 2009.

Roland Foulkes moved for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Michael Everett passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Leilani Smith-Tellez, Secretary

Date