

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Andy Ansola
Michael Everett
Paul Hyman
Bloneva Jones

Guests:

None

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

The Diversity Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Council Action Approval of Minutes

Sam Subramani moved to accept the minutes of the September 16, 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Roland A. Foulkes and the members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Chair Report

The Chair addressed the pending Proclamation for Moremi Akinde. The Proclamation must be reworded and shortened. The chair requested that each member review the draft and submit his/her own ideas, by e-mail to Dalton Barrett, in advance of the Executive Committee meeting scheduled for November 5, 2008.

Old Business

Election of Treasurer: The Chair nominated Linda Houston-Jones. The nomination was seconded by Roland A. Foulkes. The Vice Chair moved to close the nominations and that motion was seconded by Sam Subramani. Linda Houston-Jones was elected unanimously by the membership.

New Business

Installation of Officers: The officers were installed by Assistant County Attorney Al DiCalvo who briefly reminded them of their duties and the function and purposes of the Council. The officers took the following pledge: In the presence of those here assembled, I (stating his/her name) do solemnly promise and pledge to faithfully discharge the purposes, functions and duties of the Broward County Diversity Advisory Council, appointed by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, and in doing so supporting, in every way possible, this Council's duly elected leadership and in serving, when asked, I will implement

the Council's mission, goals, objectives and strategies for 2008-2009 to the best of my knowledge and ability.

Change of Meeting Night: The Chair raised the issue of the conflict that some members have with other organization meetings also scheduled for Tuesday nights. Sam Subramani moved that the meetings be changed to the third Thursday of the month beginning with November 20, 2008. The motion was seconded by Linda Houston-Jones. The vote was 5 in favor and 1 opposed (Mr. Foulkes) and was carried. Staff will send e-mail notification to all members of the scheduling change.

Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions: Leilani Smith-Tellez spoke about the 2009 Melbourne, Australia meeting and the events that will take place in advance to educate people about the beauty of the world's religions. She suggested a sub-committee to study the published guidelines for the events and to suggest and plan an event for the Diversity Advisory Council. Mr. Subramani suggested forming a Broward County chapter of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. Mr. Foulkes suggested that Bloneva Jones be involved along with a collaboration with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors' Bureau. Ms. Houston-Jones moved that an ad hoc committee be formed. Mr. Foulkes seconded the motion. Ms. Smith-Tellez, Mrs. Jones, Ms. Levine and Mr. Subramani were all named as appropriate members of the committee. The Vice Chair moved that the Council adopt as its signature event a pre-Melbourne event for the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. The motion was seconded by Ms. Levine and was carried by the membership. Mr. Foulkes proposed the Seminole Hard Rock as a venue and suggested pursuing collaboration with the Seminole Tribe.

Diversity Advisory council Annual Report FY 2008: Mr. Foulkes asked to defer the annual report to the next meeting. He requested that members put their individual accomplishments on behalf of the Council in writing to be sent to staff for collection.

New Direction: The Chair and Vice Chair met with Pamela Madison, Assistant County Administrator, and Christine Lorber of the Office of Public and Governmental Relations on October 20, 2008. Previously, the alternatives available for the Council were either being "sunset-ed" or being combined with another advisory board. At the October 20, 2008 meeting, however, it was determined that the Council could be given another two years in which to prove its current worth to the County.

The Council's original mandate included collecting and analyzing statistics regarding diversity but those purposes are no longer relevant in a majority minority county. The new direction may include the celebration of diversity and presentation of signature events. The Council will be required to draft a letter outlining its new mandate. The Council is charged with showing the Board of County Commissioner what it is going to do and not what has already been accomplished. Some suggestions thus far include a possible name change,

updating the website including the “purpose” and “members” sections, and the presentation of month proclamations and other award presentations to various diverse groups. In order to accomplish the presentations and awards, the Council will compile a yearly calendar of diverse community events. Mr. Foulkes referred the members to the December 2007 guidelines which were established by the Council for presenting award to community activists and organizations. There was discussion of establishing a cultural events committee which Mr. Subramani offered to chair.

In order to craft a strategy for moving forward over the next two years and compile the calendar, the membership is asked to provide its input, in writing, to staff in advance of the next Executive Committee meeting.

Adjournment: At 8:30PM Mr. Subramani offered a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Roland Foulkes and was unanimously carried.

Leilani Smith-Tellez
Secretary

November 20, 2008
Date