

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

Members Absent: Michael Everett
Paul Hyman
Bloneva Jones

Guests: C.L. Foulkes

Staff: Dalton Barrett, County Liaison, Helene Udell, Staff Liaison

The Diversity Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM, with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Council Action Approval of Minutes

Roland Foulkes moved to accept the minutes of the October 21, 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Linda Houston-Jones and the members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Chair Report

The Chair reported that she heard about a woman who established a fully inclusive playground designed for all children, with or without disabilities, and their parents. Mrs. Levine would like to look into creating such a playground in Broward County. Mr. Foulkes proposed a collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Sam Subramani advised that the director of the Parks and Recreation Division, Bob Harbin, should be contacted. Linda Houston-Jones suggested that the Chair gather information and materials for distribution to the members for their consideration.

The Chair reported that she was unable, thus far, to complete the redrafting of the Proclamation for Moremi Akinde.

Old Business

Leilani Smith-Tellez reported that a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee to consider a pre-parliament event for the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions will be scheduled after Thanksgiving.

On the matter of the Annual Report, there was only one submission, from Mr. Subramani, of information for inclusion in the Report.

New Direction

Vice Chair Tom Runyan spoke about the website and the need for photos and bios for the current members. Mr. Runyan asked that digital photos and bios be forwarded to the Staff Liaison by Monday, November 24, 2008.

Mr. Runyan also reminded the members that they should submit their lists of community events for the creation of a 2009 diversity calendar. January is diversity and inclusion month and the Staff Liaison will prepare the letters to mayors and city managers regarding the issuance of proclamations and resolutions in the month-long observance.

At the Executive Committee meeting a letter was drafted outlining the "New Direction". The functions and duties were modified to include promoting diverse events, obtaining proclamations and presenting awards for diverse activities in the community. A copy of the letter will be distributed to the membership and, eventually, the outline will have to be expanded to include more detail.

Mr. Foulkes suggested that one of the functions of the Council should be to assist municipalities in establishing their own diversity committees by making presentations in the cities where Council members live.

New Business

Andy Ansola is seeking the Council as a co-sponsor of the Caribbean Carnival citing the need for more support from the County and citing perceived inequitable treatment of his event in comparison to other events at the same venue. Mr. Foulkes suggested inviting the director of Parks and Recreation to speak to the Council.

Mr. Subramani moved to cancel the December meeting. The motion failed for want of a second. Mr. Foulkes moved to change the meeting date from December 18 to December 11. The motion was seconded by Ms. Smith-Tellez. The motion passed with 1 vote in opposition. Mr. Ansola moved to change the January meeting date from January 15 to January 11 in order not to conflict with Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday observances. The motion was seconded by Mr. Runyan and passed unanimously.

Mr. Runyan moved to have the Caribbean Carnival Board of Directors appear before the Council at the December meeting and in addition to invite the Parks and Recreation Division Director, Robert Harbin, to the January meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Houston-Jones and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Runyan will be in contact with the commander of the Broward Sheriff's Office Diversity Taskforce with the purpose of inviting him as a speaker, possibly for the February meeting. Additionally, Mr. Runyan is attempting to get a representative of the Obama campaign as a speaker.

Round-A-Bout

Mr. Foulkes advised that the Minority Lawyers of the Broward County Bar Association will be meeting on November 21, 2008 to discuss the lack of minority judges in the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit. Currently there is no working diversity committee for the Courts. Mr. Foulkes also spoke about several community forums in which he participated including the Diversity Summit at Nova Southeastern University on November 8, 2008 at which he was a presenter.

Mr. Subramani spoke briefly about the Diwali Festival of Lights which was held on October 18, 2008 and Asset Building through Culture.

At 8:30 PM Mr. Ansola moved to extend the meeting. Mr. Foulkes seconded the motion and the membership voted to extend the meeting for ten minutes.

Linda Houston-Jones spoke about the upcoming benefit for HIV awareness and the Chocolate Nutcracker. She also mention the upcoming Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday observances. Mr. Ansola stated that he will attend the Hollywood Martin Luther King, Jr. Gala. It was suggested that each member who attends a community event notify the Council in advance so that appropriate certificates can be prepared in advance.

Ms. Levine was wished a happy birthday!

Adjournment: At 8:37PM Ms. Smith-Tellez offered a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Subramani and was unanimously carried.

Leilani Smith-Tellez
Secretary

January 13, 2009
Date