

Recap of the Hillsborough County Diversity Advisory Council Meeting March 2, 2016

The March 2, 2016 Hillsborough County Diversity Advisory Council (DAC) meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Hung Mai. Members in attendance were: Chair Mai, Vice-Chair Minutello, Francis Joseph, Gamal Gasser, Nestor Ortiz, Frank Roder, Gary Howell, Tonni Bacoat-Jones, David Chiriboga, Satish Sharma, Robert Chen and Becki Forsell. Members absent were: Roxanne Bartley and Terry Kemple. A quorum was present. Staff present were: Albert Coleman and Carmen LoBue from the Office of Community Affairs.

Public Comment: There were three speakers. Mr. Eric Lu and Mr. Armaine Atienza who represented the Suncoast Asian Cultural Association (SACA) and Golden Dragons boat racing spoke of promotion of Asian Culture through performance and cultural awareness events. Their performance include Dragon dance. Their dragon boat team has raced in Taiwan and across Tampa Bay. Their next dragon boat race will be on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at Channelside Tampa. Mr. David McCallister spoke on behalf of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. He referenced the February meeting recaps and emphasized on their participation at the MLK Jr. Parade in Dixie County, the Plant City Strawberry festival parade and the St. Patrick's Day parade in Ybor City as part of their community-partnership events. He criticized SB 310 and said April should be recognized as a Southern History month and a Confederate Memorial Day as a state holiday. He criticized the DAC for not recognizing their participation.

Approval of February 3, 2016 Meeting Recap: Councilmember Ortiz made a motion to approve the meeting recaps, seconded by Vice-Chair Minutello and unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- Finalize April 16 DAC Festival – Councilmember Ortiz briefed members on updates. He proposed weekly meetings until the festival event and recap meeting after the festival. Identified groups were reviewed. He clarified youth culture as its own subcategory. He envisioned a technology focused exhibit geared towards youth along with their preferred food. Each group is allocated 30 minutes for performance. Members reviewed groups:
 - Asian – Councilmember Chen proposed performance to include Vietnamese fashion show, Chinese, Philippine and Dragon dance.
 - People with Disabilities – Vice Chair Minutello invited the Pyramid players to perform. She asked for approval to pay Sandra Sroka VSA performance team who solicited payment for an art instructor at \$50 per hour. The DAC did not approve the request. Derek Brooks' participation is pending. Councilmember Forsell has contacted Card for Autism, Helping Hands and Special Olympics. She said Sam's Club, Tampa Bay Lighthouse for the Blind, FAST, TBS, and Hillsborough County Alliance would like to participate and share a table. It was estimated that 9 tables will be designated for People with Disabilities.
 - Indian – Councilmember Sharma confirmed the Indian group participation to include performance and ethnic food.
 - Caribbean -
 - Councilmembers voted to accept pro-bono participation and excluded commissioned performance.

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New Business:

- Workgroup updates – All groups are focused on April 16 Festival.
- Staff to schedule DAC subcommittee meetings in March. Members agreed to meet from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at County Center on:
 - Wednesday, March 9 for event planning.
 - Tuesday, March 15 for event planning; and Orientation for Indian group (Mr. Satish Sharma, an exception due to Mr. Sharma's availability due to his trip to India.)
 - Wednesday, March 23 for event planning; Orientation for at least one representative of each group (Asian, Middle Eastern, People with Disabilities, Youth & Caribbean)

Announcements:

- Saturday, October 1, 2016 (10:00 AM – 3:00 PM) Families Abilities Information Rally (F.A.I.R) at All People's Life Center 6105 E. Sligh Ave., Tampa, FL 33617.

Adjournment: 9:00 PM; Next Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 6:30 PM.

** Staff directives underlined