

# Recap of the Hillsborough County Diversity Advisory Council (DAC) Meeting August 2, 2017

August 2, 2017 Hillsborough County Diversity Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Chair Ortiz. Members present: Chair Ortiz, Virgil Perry, Ann Nguyen, Patti Sanchez, Satish Sharma, Norma Reno, Letitia Haynes, James Tokley, Raed Khawaja, Gamal Gasser, Lynnette Stine, Francis Joseph, Yvette Jones, Jennifer Shiver, and Kaitlin Connolly. Members absent: Vice-Chair Howell (Notified), Terry Kemple (Did not Notify), Robert Chen (Notified), Roxanne Bartley (Notified), and Kamal Patel (Notified). There was a quorum present. Staff present: Albert Coleman, EOA/Office of Community Affairs, Tony Morejon from the Office of Community Affairs, and Zuleyka Carbajal from the Equal Opportunity Administrator's Office.

## **Public Comment:**

Mr. Desmond, Community Outreach Director for Tampa Pride Festival, wanted to invite the DAC to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity Parade on March 24, 2018. They are invited to march in the parade or have booth space, or both at no charge.

Mr. McCallister would like to speak to the issue of Confederate Monuments when it comes up on the agenda under discussion.

## **Old Business:**

**Approval of July 5, 2017 Meeting Recap:** Mr. Perry stated that he was present at the July 5, 2017 meeting. The recap stated that he was absent and did not notify, Mr. Perry said that was incorrect. A motion was made by Mr. Joseph to approve July 5, 2017 meeting recap as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tokley. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

## **Old Business:**

**Interact Hillsborough:** Mr. Morejon advised the DAC that Communications stated that the DAC could not have their own Facebook and Twitter accounts because of the Archive and the Public Records Law. The Communications Department will help with the final flyer.

Ms. Haynes asked if the Communications Department can meet with the DAC after Interact to speak with them regarding other questions or concerns. Mr. Morejon responded that he will let the Communications Director know and will take them any questions the DAC has. He will bring back their responses.

Mr. Joseph questioned other events being noted on the County's website. Mr. Morejon responded that they will share anything on the County's Facebook page.

Ms. Nguyen was asking about the different communities listed to perform. Mr. Morejon stated that the DAC decided on those communities being represented. Chair Ortiz stated that they might open up the event to other communities to also perform.

Ms. Nguyen inquired about food trucks participating. Chair Ortiz stated that they should go ahead and register now. All food trucks have to be approved by Hillsborough County. If they participated last year, then they are fine.

Ms. Nguyen inquired if universities can participate. Mr. Morejon stated that they have to be non-profit college, or university. Chair Ortiz stated that other people participating can have a table at outer ring of the park, the communities highlighted are in the grassy area. Any group participating needs to fill out the form.

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Mr. Joseph was concerned about the time remaining to plan the event and wanted to know the confidence level of the members that this can be successfully done on September 30th. Ms. Stine said everyone needed to step up to the plate, it was going to happen on September 30<sup>th</sup>, there was no choice. Everybody should be distributing the "Save the Date".

Ms. Nguyen stated that she needs 500 flyers and asked Mr. Morejon if HART can pick up people at the senior centers. Mr. Morejon stated that they could ask and Chair Ortiz stated that he has a contact.

Ms. Stine had a question for Mr. Morejon, if he can get the County's food truck list. He responded that he would get that to her.

Mr. Morejon encouraged the group, stating that they have eight weeks to finish putting the event together. He was impressed that the DAC put together a great event last year.

Chair Ortiz stated that volunteers are critical. There are forms for people to sign up. Vice Chair Howell is bringing a group of his students that are volunteering.

Members whose terms expire on August 31<sup>st</sup> are making the commitment to volunteer putting together the event and participating at the event.

Dates and times were scheduled for Subcommittee Meetings. They are as follows: Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, August 16<sup>th</sup>, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Thursday August 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

**Revised Strategic Plan:** Chair Ortiz presented the revised Strategic Plan. There was discussion regarding changes.

Ms. Shiver provided information regarding setting up the Diversity Club at her school, Brandon Epic and also Brandon and Armwood High School to begin in January.

Chair Ortiz stated that Categories 1, 2, and 3 are the main goals for the DAC.

A motion was made by Mr. Gasser to approve the Strategic Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tokley. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

**Quorum Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Stine to change quorum to be 50% plus 1. The motion was seconded by Ms. Connolly. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

### **New Business:**

**Discussion of Confederate Monuments:** Mr. McCallister came forward and stated that he would like to hear what the DAC has to say. He stated that the issue was divisive and without finality. His specific request was that the DAC request that the BOCC put this to a referendum of the people, to retain the Memoria en Aeterna monument at its present location.

Chair Ortiz explained to the DAC the situation of the Confederate monument that sits in front of the Courthouse Annex building. He stated that the BOCC initially voted for it to be left there, and then it went back to the BOCC for vote and it was voted on to move it.

The request Mr. McCallister has of the DAC is for a discussion of where it should go and making a recommendation to the BOCC.

Mr. McCallister stated it could be brought up at other meetings and so that there is no finality to the situation.

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Ms. Haynes inquired when they would be moving the monument and to where. Ms. Connolly stated that it was very open ended. Mr. Tokley stated that they decided that it would be moved and that a private cemetery is accepting the monument.

**Chair and Vice Chair Positions:** Nominations for Vice Chair – Kaitlin Connolly (accepts), Lynnette Stine (declined), Virgil Perry (declined). Nominations for Chair – Letitia Haynes (declined), Francis Joseph (accepts), Virgil Perry (declined).

### **Announcements from Council Members:**

Ms. Sanchez is giving free sign language classes, both basic and advance. They will be held at Brandon Library and Temple Terrace Library, and another teacher will cover downtown and North Tampa.

Mr. Sharma announced that the Indian Community will be celebrating India's Independence Day on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Gasser brought gifts for the group, being that it was his last day on the Council.

Mr. Joseph announced that Project Link will have two other Back to School events Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at Blake High School and another at Leto.

Mr. Perry announced that he has been asked to be a HART ambassador.

Ms. Shiver stated that she is looking forward to having the DAC clubs in the schools. Also, at her school, Brandon Epic, they are looking for African-American and Latino mentors.

Ms. Jones announced that there is a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary YES Fair on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at All Peoples Life Center.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.