

Recap of the Hillsborough County Diversity Advisory Council (DAC) Meeting October 2, 2019

October 2, 2019 Hillsborough County Diversity Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Griffith. Members present: Chair Griffith, Matthew Chernesky, Melissa Braswell, Angela Birdsong, Rosalie Smith, Yvette Jones, Marcia Minutello, Luis Laracuenta, and Debbie Crockett.

Members absent: Majid Vasigh (Notified), Virgil Perry (Notified), Nan Park (Notified), Norma Henning (Notified), Chrissy Taylor (Notified) and Lesem Ramos (Notified). There was a quorum present.

Staff present: Albert Coleman, EOA/Office of Community Affairs, Eli Rodriguez, Office of Community Affairs, and Mary Helen Farris, Deputy County Attorney.

Public Comment: Mr. McCallister stated that the DAC members should be attending the BOCC meetings. There was a Proclamation for Hispanic Heritage Month. He spoke about the Hispanic component of the Indigenous Southern Community.

Visitors: 1

New Business:

Sunshine Law Presentation: Ms. Farris, Deputy County Attorney came and presented information regarding the Sunshine Law.

Old Business: Approval of September 4, 2019 Meeting Recap: A motion was made by Ms. Jones to approve the September 4, 2019 Meeting Recap. The motion was seconded by Mr. Laracuenta. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

New Business:

Subcommittee Updates:

Strategic Planning Subcommittee: Mr. Chernesky spoke about the meeting, which was held an hour before the regular DAC meeting. Some key words or phrases were pin pointed that best reflected the DAC. The next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. right before the regular DAC meeting on November 6th.

One Hillsborough Subcommittee: Ms. Minutello stated that she tried to set up a meeting, but it was not able to be scheduled.

Communications/Marketing Subcommittee: Ms. Jones stated that they have not had a meeting yet. First meeting is being planned for November 6th at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Jones also spoke regarding the YES Fair on October 5th from 10-3 p.m. There will be a table from 9- 4:00 p.m. at the All People's Life Center.

New Business:

One Hillsborough Multicultural Fun Fest: Chair Griffith stated that it was a good event. The turnout was small. The DAC did have a table at the event and people did stop by and ask questions about the DAC. They were invited to attend the meetings. Ms. Braswell commented that it was great to partner with them.

Community Engagement Dialogue: Chair Griffith mentioned that there was a group of seniors from Sun City at the Fun Fest. They were like a dance group. They were invited to go to the DAC meetings, but they said it was a little bit too far from them. She questioned going out into the community to have the meetings. The libraries did not notice having the meetings there. How would the public know that the meetings will be out in the community. Ms. Crockett asked if the County keeps a list of neighborhood organizations. Mr. Coleman stated that Neighborhood Relations has a database where they have all of that information. He stated that marketing

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can also develop flyers or put up signs to post at the libraries. Ms. Minutello asked if a few members can just go out and speak to these groups, like senior citizens to speak about the DAC. She stated that transportation is also an issue. Chair Griffith stated that it is not the DAC's responsibility. The County and the City are working on getting more transportation to the citizens. Mr. Laracuente stated that this topic was discussed in the subcommittee meeting and that the committee goes to one event a month to represent the DAC. Ms. Minutello stated that she has the information regarding the Summit that the DAC had. Ms. Minutello will be put on next month's agenda to speak regarding the Summit. Mr. Chernesky asked if other boards and councils reach out to the public and Ms. Griffith stated that not all of them do. Mr. Chernesky suggested reaching out to other boards and councils that reach out to the community and see how they do it. Mr. Coleman stated that generally issues will drive the community to come to the meetings. It is the subject matter that is being discussed and they want to voice their opinions. Chair Griffith stated that the Strategic Plan has to be looked at and possibly revised to see how the DAC will know what the community concerns are.

Announcements:

Chair Griffith stated that on October 24, 2019, at 4 p.m. at Tampa International Airport, there will be an introduction reception for the Urban League of Hillsborough County.

Ms. Minutello sent out a notice of A Night of a Thousand Stars event on November 16, 2019 to honor the caregivers of people with disabilities. Volunteers are needed to oversee the high school children that are serving.

Mr. Laracuente stated that on October 5, 2019 the Ana G. Mendez University will have a Hispanic Heritage Celebration and that on October 6, 2019, (recording inaudible).

Ms. Smith announced that Safe and Sound Hillsborough will have Part II of the Youth Baker Act listening session on October 30, 2019. It will be in English and Spanish.

Ms. Crockett announced that on Thursday, October 24, 2019, from 6-8 p.m. there are two organizations, the National Association of Asian-American Professionals of Tampa Bay and the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Tampa Bay are hosting a joint legal forum on racial discrimination and other land mines in the work place. It is free, you just have to R.S.V.P. There will be other topics discussed as well. It will be held at the Tampa Highway Expressway Authority.

Ms. Birdsong stated that the 3rd Friday of every month is the Caribbean Community Association meeting at 7 o'clock at the University CDC.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mr. Chernesky to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Next Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.