

DIVERSITY AND HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FL

February 21, 2023

The workshop meeting of the **DIVERSITY AND HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD** was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by Vice Chair Prospect at the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center Pembroke Pines, FL 33025

DIVERSITY AND HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD

Present: Vice Chair Prospect; Members Tewari, Burns, Azad, Burgess, Landrian ; Alternate Members Industrious,

Absent: Chair Hicks-Lee; Members Jacobs-Reed, Brewster, Comfort, Sicard, Edwards, Mathew, Surin, Acuna and Potter

Also Present: Susie Felix Recreation Coordinator (SWFP); Needleman, Assistant City Attorney; Board Secretary Nicole Lafrance and City Commissioner Thomas Good

EXCUSED ABSENCES

There was no quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was no quorum.

LIAISON REPORT

Assistant City Attorney Heather Needleman went over the Liaison Report speaking to the ordinance that was discussed at the last Commission Meeting regarding to the lack of attendance. Member Tewari asked a question as to how many members are on the Board and how many the Board needs for quorum. Commissioner Good spoke about this and how every Board is different with the number of Members and how much it would take to make quorum. Commissioner Good went on to speak about how when This Board was first introduced there was a lot of demand and how that would

have to do with creating the number for quorum. He let the Members know that they are looking at this issue as well as the Voting Members vs. Alternate Members and he let the Members know that he greatly appreciates their service to the Board and would like to hear from them about what they could do to boost attendance.

Member Landrian mentioned that Members receive advanced notice to Meetings and he does not see why there should be any reason Members would not be able to reach out if they are unable to attend a meeting.

Commissioner Good mentioned he would look at his District Members and give them a phone call if they have continually missed meetings.

Member Burns mentioned a possible reason for absences could be the fact that during the high Covid times they were doing virtual meetings in which the Board almost always has quorum.

Member Azad asked Commissioner Good why the quorum is so high (8 members to make quorum) and Commissioner Good mentioned it is something they are looking at and will hopefully have addressed by the next meeting.

Commissioner Good asked if it was normal for everyone to be sitting so far from each other and it was brought up by Member Burns that it has been that way since Covid. Member Azad suggested the Board could meet in a smaller room in the future and Member Tewari suggested that the Board could meet in the Frank at City Hall like they do with other meetings.

Member Burns mentioned the possibility that Members of the Board are getting discouraged when there is no quorum, and no actions can be made, and this could factor into less and less attendance.

Commissioner Good closed this discussion letting Members know that they are working on the new ordinance and again, appreciates everyone for their contribution to the Board.

Before going into Old Business Member Burns requested that we have a Moment of Silence for Fallen Pembroke Pines Police Officer Charles Herring.

OLD BUSINESS

Vice Chair Prospect brief went over the Welcome Packages Liaison Shechter went out last meeting asking if everyone had the chance to look it over. Member Landrian mentioned that it was a very nice presentation and the City should have one like it with the same kind of information.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chair Prospect read an article regarding a Florida university that has become the first in the nation to name its law school after a practicing Black attorney in light of February being Black History Month.

Vice Chair Prospect also asked Members if they have any suggestions for diversity and culture events for the City. Member Burns mentioned the list of activities the Board put together previously and how out of all the suggestions only one event has been held (MLK Parade).

Member Azad mentioned how he would like to see some more Asian activities celebrated and how the City of Miramar holds an event for the Asian culture that includes music and food trucks.

Member Tewari wanted to know what happened to that list of events when presented to the Commission and why they did not hear anything back. Assistant City Attorney Heather Needleman let him know that the Commission does not need to respond back, and Member Tewari mentioned that it would be encouraging if they did.

Commissioner Good mentioned that it sounded like there was no clear action with that list and his suggestion would be to build a relationship with other groups who

already do events. Commissioner Good also suggested to look at that list and prioritize which events are most important as a group to celebrate.

REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Prospect adjourned the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Lafrance
Board Secretary

Adjourned: 7:30 PM
Approved: