

MAYOR'S HISPANIC AMERICAN ADVISORY BOARD (MHAAB)



MHAAB MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Main Library/First Floor Lounge/303 N Laura Street

Mission: *"The main purpose of the Board is to advocate on behalf of the Hispanic American Community and to provide a means by which the City may obtain information, guidance and advice on the issues facing the Hispanic American Community"*

Members Present: Pablo Diaz De Sandi, Nicole Landa, Sabrina Marcos Smith, Zergihno Roell Garcia, Jorge Lopez & Carmen Martinez

Staff Present and Outreach Coordinator: Kara Tucker

Guest Present: Julby Balton, Jose Acevedo

I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:

Approximately at 12:00pm by Pablo Diaz De Sandi

II. Staff Updates: Kara Tucker, Board Liaison.

- Need Bio from Dr. Carmen Martinez
- Open seats – submitted to Garrett Dennis, Director of Boards & Commissions, waiting to hear back
 - Pablo asked for a meeting with Garrett
- Tereese attended Aida's event at Inspire to Rise
- Board members that are active in the community can send content on events if you'd like to include in the End of Year Report

III. Motion to approve Agenda: *with a change*

Change to Agenda: by Pablo Diaz de Sandi, states we no longer have a Chair, *moved the motion to approve the agenda with an amendment* to vote on a new Chair, *motion so moved* by: Sabrina Smith, seconded by: Jorge Lopez, all agreed.

- *Kara Tucker – received a letter of resignation from Zergihno*

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- Zergihno thanked Kara and the Board
- Jorge nominated Pablo as Board Chair, seconded by Sabrina, Pablo accepted
- No further discussion, all in favor, none opposed
- No nomination for vice chair, tabled for next meeting

IV. Outreach Coordinator updates: Yanira “YaYa” Cardona

- JSEB meeting – cancelled today because of other events at the library.
 - Trying to move out of the library
 - Program is housed with the JSEB Department
- Community Resource Guide – almost done, 2 more pages to go
 - Will send to Kara so that it can be reviewed by the Board
 - Need to get sponsors to cover printing cost
 - The board has a Trust Fund and can receive money
- Know Your Rights Seminar
 - Board members interested in learning presentation let YaYa know
- Jax Community Fair – Saturday, April 19th, 10am
 - The first 100 families can get food from Food Pantry
- Will be meeting soon on Unidos Jax will meet at the library

Pablo advised YaYa he will write a letter on behalf of the Board recognizing all the work and efforts on the Know Your Rights and everything that’s going on federally.

V. Subcommittee Update(s):

Social Media & Business – Pablo Diaz de Sandi, Chair

- Went over planning for Social Media & Business
- Meetings are every Friday (2nd Friday of Month) before the main MHAAB meeting, 11:30 – 1pm
- Please send Ethics Training Certifications to Kara or Tereese, if you have not done Ethics Training let them know
- Talked about Hispanic Job Fair, Sister City in Argentina

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- We can retweet post from the mayor
- Spoke about getting a new tablecloth, YaYa advised to go to Jax Color Print in Riverside, Jorge will give contact of Latino Family that does printing as well
- Pablo asks that we offer meetings virtually for all MHAAB meetings
 - Kara advised we will need to update By-laws before doing so
- Spoke about the Cesar Chavez Event

Education Healthcare & Wellness – Aida Seeraj, Chair

Public Safety & Faith – Need a Chair & members

- Kara gave updates for subcommittee:
 - JaxReady Fest – April 25th – 26th
 - Fair Housing Symposium – April 26th

VI. Town Hall Financial Workshop – Subcommittee Item

- Originally wanted to do something with JSEB if meeting regularly
- YaYa suggests working on for the June JSEB meeting
 - Kara and YaYa will get together with JSEB to plan & promote

VII. Subcommittee's – Action Items for Chair of each:

- Select a different meeting date from the main meeting
- If need more members, ask now
- Hispanic Job Fair - moved to Social Media & Business Subcommittee
- Will reassign Public Safety, Veterans & Faith at next meeting
- Social media access still needed

VIII. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Pablo suggests moving this Agenda Item up on the Agenda

- *Moved by: Sabrina Marcos Smith to approve minutes from: February 18, 2025. Second by: Dr. Carmen Martinez. All in favor of approving minutes as is, none opposed!*

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IX. Events: Please go if able to go to - Highlight for Report

- Talked about Cesar Chavez Day and Jax Community Fair!
- **Get Covered Jax** – YaYa Cardona
 - would like to do one for the community, in Arlington or the Westside.
 - Free medical services coverage for those who don't have insurance, medical treatment almost for free
 - 34% of Jacksonville using, want to make sure the Hispanic and Minority community is aware of
 - Agape one of the partners of Get Covered Jax
 - Present at CM Ken Amaro monthly Town Halls
- April 29th – Event at Deerwood Castle, opportunity for Entrepreneurs to learn about business development, networking, etc. by BOA & 1st Coast Hispanic Chambers announcement by Sabrina Smith

X. Public Comment:

- April 23rd – workshop put on by Prospera announcement by Julby Bolton
- Jose Acevedo, City Commissioner Duval County Schools, thanked the Board for attending and supporting the Community Resource Fair Event

XI. Old Business:

- Financial Workshop – Subcommittee item
- Hispanic working with COJ
 - End of Year Report recommendation item

XII. Adjourn – motioned by Sabrina, seconded by Jorge at 1pm

Chair: Pablo Diaz de Sandi | **Vice-Chair:** *Vacant*

Members: Anamaria Contreras | Nicole Landa | Jorge Lopez

Dr. Carmen Martinez | Jose Morales | Aida Seeraj | Sabrina Marcos Smith

City of Jacksonville, DSD (904) 255-5466