

DIVERSITY AND HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FL

November 16, 2021

The regular meeting of the **DIVERSITY AND HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD** was called to order at 6:32 P.M. by Chair Hicks-Lee at the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center in the Main Hall.

DIVERSITY AND HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD

Present: Chair Hicks-Lee; Members Tewari, Brewster, Sicard, Edwards, Potter, Landrian, Zacarias, Prospect, and Burgess

Absent: Vice Chair Burns; Members Azad, Comfort, Mathew, Surin, and Acuna

Also Present: Jay Shechter, Liaison; Heather Needelman, Assistant City Attorney; Nadia Ally, Board Secretary; Christina Sorensen, Recreation and Cultural Arts Director; Commissioner Siple

PRESENTATION BY THE RECREATION & CULTURAL ARTS DIRECTOR

CHRISTINA SORENSEN

Ms. Sorensen spoke on Spring Valley Park and Dream Park. She mentioned that there will be a new recreation center in the Dream Park and shared the plans, layout, materials, and elevation. She noted that Spring Valley will be a passive park to compliment the Dream Park. She included that it will have a playground, exercise equipment, and more landscaping.

Members Zacarias, Prospect, Sicard, and Brewster joined the meeting which gave the board a quorum.

Member Tewari asked about the October Commission meeting where the naming of the park was discussed.

Ms. Sorensen stated that the entrance is Peace Way, there will be a statue of Mahatma Ghandi, and the Commission would like to explore other options for naming the facility.

Commissioner Siple said the naming of the building is Dream Park Community Center. She also said the board can decide on other world leaders to make a dedication to. She mentioned she wants the board to be deliberate when choosing a person or group deserving of remembrance.

Member Tewari suggested Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King in addition to Mahatma Ghandi.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Member Tewari, seconded by Member Potter, to approve the meeting minutes of October 19, 2021 passed unanimously.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

On a motion by Member Landrian, seconded by Member Sicard, to excuse the absences of Vice Chair Burns and Members Azad and Acuna, passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Hicks-Lee deferred the short icebreaker item for the next meeting.

Chair Hicks-Lee opened a discussion on meeting every other month. On a motion by Member Potter, seconded by Member Tewari, to meet every other month passed unanimously.

Chair Hicks-Lee discussed the process of updating member's availability. Liaison Shechter emailed board members. Member Potter said meeting every other month might get a better attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Hicks-Lee read a poem for the board. She opened discussion on recognizing persons.

Member Tewari said he appreciated the Commission for letting the board assist and stated again that in addition to Mahatma Ghandi, he would suggest Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela.

Member Brewster discussed taking time to decide and whoever submits a name should give a synopsis of that person's life. She also said that it does not only have to be a statue, it could be a plaque.

Member Sicard suggested that the board define a criteria for that level of recognition.

Chair Hicks-Lee said they should come up with criteria and discuss at the meeting in January.

On a motion by Member Potter, seconded by Member Tewari, for each member to come up with criteria and be discussed in the January meeting passed unanimously.

Member Landrian suggested fallen police officers.

Chair Hicks-Lee reminded board members if they have an idea, they need a motion on it. Chair Hicks-Lee also spoke on being resources for local schools.

Commissioner Siple spoke on recommendations being for not only charter schools, but public schools also. She suggested reaching out to the principals.

Member Potter stated the board makes recommendation to the Commission and that the city would have to implement.

On a motion by Member Landrian, seconded by Member Potter, to extend the meeting 15 minutes passed unanimously.

Member Landrian suggested having interns to show them how the government works.

Commissioner Siple said the city had an intern program but COVID interfered.

Member Tewari suggested having guest speakers present for 15 minutes about their expertise and to learn about other cultures.

On a motion by Member Tewari, seconded by Member Potter, to consider speaker having a short presentation of 15 minutes about heritage, culture, and other items in line with this board passed unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Member Landrian, seconded by Member Tewari, to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. passed unanimously.