

DRAFT MINUTES

DIVERSITY AND HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FL

January 21, 2025

The regular meeting of the **DIVERSITY AND HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD** was called to order at 6:32 P.M. by Chair Prospect in The Frank Art Gallery.

DIVERSITY AND HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD

Present: Chair Prospect, Members Industrious, Hicks-Lee, Tewari, McKenzie, Hylton, Burns, Burgess, and Henriquez.

Absent: Vice Chair Acuna, Members Azad, Brewster, Comfort, Edwards, Sicard, Landrian, Rosario and Mathew.

Also Present: Liaison Sorensen, Assistant City Attorney Paul Hernandez, Board Secretary Marlene Graham.

Board Secretary Graham declared a quorum.

OATH OF OFFICE:

Member Henriquez took her Oath of Office. Assistant City Attorney Paul Hernandez provided a brief presentation on Sunshine Law guidelines. Member Industrious asked City Attorney Hernandez about quorum and voting members. What the ordinance said about the order of regular members and alternates rotating between commission district members.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Liaison Sorensen confirmed that Member Azad would not be in attendance, and he requested that the item on the renaming of 71st Street after Imam Shaikh Shafayat Mohamed to be moved to the next meeting.

Motion: A motion made by Member Hylton, seconded by Member McKenzie, to approve the absence of Member Azad **passed unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: A motion made by **Member Tewari**, seconded by **Member Hicks-Lee**, to approve the September 17, 2024 minutes **passed unanimously.**

LIAISON REPORT

Liaison Sorensen provided a recap of Fall/Winter Events and upcoming Winter/Spring events.

Fall/Winter Cultural Events Recap: Hispanic Heritage Festival, Savor the Sounds in October, November and December; the Pembroke Pines Art Festival, Veterans Day, art exhibition Ebb & Flow: Exploring the Womanhood Continuum – Opening Reception.

Upcoming Winter/Spring Events: **January** – MLK, Jr Day, Opening Reception for Figure/Ground: Finding Balance at Studio 18, Savor the Sounds. **February** – Kindness Initiative, Story Walk at The Frank, Taste of the Pines, Savor the Sounds. **March** – Opening Reception for Transitory Landscapes at The Frank, Relay for Life, Savor the Sounds. **April** – Pines Day 65th Birthday on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

Liaison Sorensen said she received positive feedback on the MLK, Jr. Day Breakfast Event. This year it was held indoors in the large City Hall lobby rather than on the plaza due to the weather. Member Hylton suggested showing more with the possibility of a parade. The Board discussed a Pines Day parade, incorporating multi-cultural events. Ms. Sorensen said she would provide further information at the next Board meeting.

Member Hicks-Lee spoke about her discussion with City Administration regarding the search for an MC for the MLK, Jr. Day event. Member Lee asked for clarification about how recommendations and decisions would be deliberated and confirmed.

Plans for next year's MLK, Jr. Day events were already being outlined by staff based on Board recommendations and reviewing the City budget. Liaison Sorensen said she took the board's outline pertaining to the Juneteenth holiday. During the months of May and June she will invite community members to art workshops at the Frank Gallery. There will be quilt making, celebrating Juneteenth, arts and crafts, temporary art installation events, and historical presentations on the history of Juneteenth. She said Staff is still working on the outline.

Liaison Sorensen said there would be several opening receptions in March at the Frank Gallery and Studio 18, events to promote kindness and peace in the City. She said tickets to the City's Taste of the Pines event will go on sale shortly and recommended that board members attend.

Member Hernandez asked about Hispanic music, festive events and activities.

In response to an inquiry about the Kindness Event, Ms. Sorenson said there would be Zumba classes, yoga, and wellness events.

Member Hylton asked if there would be live bands at Taste of Pines. Ms. Sorensen said the music would be provided by a DJ.

Liaison Sorensen spoke about the upcoming Story Walk Event.

Member Henriquez suggested the inclusion of a plant exchange, similar to kindness activities conducted at the local library.

Member Tewari asked about the inclusion of Caribbean steel bands at Savor the Sounds events..

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on renaming the building inside the William B. Armstrong Dream Park: Chair Prospect introduced discussion on the naming of the building inside Dream Park. Summary of discussion and explanation from Commission Meeting on the matter in October 2021. To rename the community center at the William B. Armstrong Dream Park. Reference was made to Proposed Resolution 2021-R-53 in which a motion was made not to adopt the resolution to name the building the “Mahatma Gandhi Center”, but to send it back to the Diversity and Heritage Advisory Board to make suggestions on the naming of the community center building at the William B. Armstrong Dream Park and bring recommendations back to Commission.

Member Burns said she preferred the name of the building to be “The Peace Center.”

Member Hylton agreed that the name should be “Dream Park Community Center.”

Motion was made by **Member Hylton**, seconded by **Member Tewari**, to name the building inside the William B. Armstrong Dream Park “Dream Park Community Center.”

The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: Chair Prospect, Members Hicks-Lee, Tewari, Hylton, Industrious, Member Burgess, McKenzie, and Henriquez.

Nay: Member Burns.

Update on resident welcome information and website: Chair Prospect and the board discussed the update on the residents' welcome information and website. She said she attended a number of the Mayor's town hall meetings and spoke on the importance of a new residents package and accessibility on the City website. This issue was of expressed importance at the Mayor's town hall meetings.

Liaison Sorensen said she welcomed feedback and recommendations on updating the website. Member McKenzie said the website should be revamped, especially the mobile phone version of the website. Members Tewari and Henriquez spoke about their experiences using the website or trying to assist others to use the website.

Historically, the city had determined in 2000 that a New Resident Guide would be implemented. The City's Communications Director was working on a one page flyer with bright graphics; do's and don'ts, and QR codes directing everyone to the website. Ms. Sorensen said there is a plethora of information that is too much to put into a pamphlet: from building permits to garbage pickup; from special events to how to pay your water bill.

NEW BUSINESS

Bringing back monthly meetings: Chair Prospect invited the board to discuss having board meetings every other month to move through items, planning events, and recommendations in a timely manner. It was also important to have enough time to discuss and prepare the board's annual report for presentation to the Commission in June.

Member Hicks-Lee asked about how the board would be notified if an emergency meeting needed to be called between the scheduled meetings, without violating the Sunshine Law.

City Attorney Paul Hernandez said that pursuant to the Sunshine Law, any communication or discussions between board members, outside of the public meetings, is prohibited.

Liaison Sorensen said that if there are any agenda items that come up between the meetings members can e-mail the liaison or the board secretary in the Clerk's Office so that the item(s) can be included on the agenda.

Member Hicks-Lee said the election/organizational meeting is normally in October, a month that is not included in the schedule. Looking at May as a possible month for the organizational meeting.

Chair Prospect said that each board meeting should provide discussion and planning as a framework for the subsequent meeting.

A motion was made by Member McKenzie, seconded by Member Hicks-Lee, for the Diversity & Heritage Advisory Board's meetings to be scheduled every other month for January, March, May, September, and November, skipping June July, and August, going forward. **The motion passed unanimously.**

City Attorney Hernandez said he will review the ordinance to clarify if the board elections can be moved to a later time in the year.

Renaming 71st Street after Imam Shaikh Shafayat Mohamed: Chair Prospect invited the board to move on the item that had been submitted by Member Azad who was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

A motion was made by **Member Hylton**, seconded by **Member Tewari**, to table the discussion about the renaming of 71st Street after Imam Shaikh Shafayat Mohamed to the next board meeting on March 18, 2025. **The motion passed unanimously.**

REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Prospect said the board should discuss a framework on what the agenda should look like to include planning for budgets, board recommendations and assembling the Board Annual Report for presentation to the City Commission at the first Commission meeting in June. Advisory board elections are normally in October but due to lack of quorum board elections could be discussed sooner.

Chair Prospect spoke about when to start discussions for Hispanic Heritage events and Caribbean Heritage events.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: On a motion by **Member Hylton**, seconded by **Member Tewari**, to adjourn the meeting **passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene D. Graham
Board Secretary

Adjourned: 7:47 PM

Approved: