

MINUTES

April 4, 2024

Council Members Present: Harold Paxton, Richard Rock, Carlos Mercado, Julianne Pérez, Deputy Corey Studt, Jeanne Lafler, Carlos Mercado, Fred Green, Caterina Tassara Runyon, Carol Weideman, Angel Addison.

Council members Absent: Carol Bumiller, Keith Sabiel, Cheko Carter, Fidel Johnson, Christine Britt.

Guests: Arellys Escalera (Pinellas County Communications), Wanda McCawthan (Friends of Ridgecrest), Marsha Brown (PCSB), Chris Davis (Pinellas Education Foundation), Tracey Schofield (Pinellas & Kids Foundation), Scott Gill (High Point Neighborhood Family Center)

JWB Staff: Yaridis L. Garcia

I. Call to Order- Richard Rock, Chair at 6:00 PM

- a. Welcome- Members & Guests
- b. Approval- March Minutes, quorum present.

II. Open Agenda-Community Partners Updates

Lealman Asian NFC: Heart and Soul Saturday (outdoors and indoors): arts and crafts, dancers, food, etc.

Friends of Ridgecrest: National Day of Prayer – Prayer Breakfast at 1325 18th St. N (Thursday, May 2, 7am-9am), Pastor Bebe Hopson invited us to be here.

Police & Kids Foundation: Freedom Festival (country music), OCC restaurant, fundraiser to support kids (shoes, diapers, replace stolen property) 12-4pm, free event and take donations.

- a. Pinellas Park changes that could impact summer youth activities:
 - i. Baseball fields gone (moving to Howard Park)
 - ii. New soccer complexes to change.
 - iii. Davis field is closed and will turn into Davis Commons (splash zone, affordable housing) but a long-term project (a NEW \$20 million youth park)
 - iv. Updates will be great but in the meantime several activities canceled or paused.

Julianne:

- b. Attended Open House to meet Amy Davis focused on unincorporated Pinellas County.

- i. Arelys: Amy will focus mostly on Lealman, so now Mathew Spoor will focus on Mid-County.

1. To-do: Invite Matthew to a JWB meeting.

- c. Youth shootings continue in Largo/Unincorporated/Mid-County areas. Tragic events.
 - i. Tracey (Police & Kids Foundation) shared that there used to be severe gang issues in the region in the 90's that have since improved significantly.

Yaridis:

- d. Game Day at Lake Vista Park for Grand Families Event
 - i. Kona Ice is a great partner for upcoming weekend event, stepped in for a vendor that couldn't be part of it.
- e. Yaya has been doing media in English and Spanish to promote events.
Fred/HPNFC:
- f. Event this Saturday at High Point Youth Empowerment Center, Urban League event. 10am-2pm. April 6.
 - i. Urban League will start to be on site a few days a week.
 - ii. **To-do: Fred Green to send Urban League contact to Yaya**
Ultimate Medical Academy (Clearwater)
- g. May 8, Wednesday, 9am-12pm, Resource Fair for students and will be able to have job interviews with medical providers.

III. Council Business

- High Point Projects Julianne Pérez, Secretary:
 - Saturday, May 11th: High Point Community Cleanup – Register here: [High Point Community Cleanup Tickets, Sat, May 11, 2024 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
 - Saturday, June 15th: High Point Phase 2 Garden Planting with Tampa Bay Estuary Program – Registration coming soon.
 - Had two events with Keep Pinellas Beautiful in the past year which led to some grants to continue gardening at both locations, public art, etc.
 - County building a new development at ICOT center, will bring new momentum to the area. There is currently a popular farmers market there looking for a new location.
- Grand Families Event-Planning Committee
 - May 4 event.
 - Jomar from JWB who came last time updated the survey and passport with survey.
 - Vietnamese, Portuguese, Spanish, English for survey
 - Family Center on Deafness: will bring interpreters to event.
 - Planning team is working on printing, picking up food, BayCare will do blood pressure and more, 35 community resource tables are registered, vision testing, etc., photos with Star Wars theme, working on getting haircuts confirmed, vendors can bring gifts to raffle out.

- **To-do: Everyone on Mid-County Council invited to attend May 4 (everyone gets a t-shirt!). Yaya will send a volunteer registration.**
 - **To-do: Yaridis will ask Jillian if Pinellas Park Police Cadets could help with parking on May 4 event.**
- Goal is 500 attendees.
- 10 volunteers from JWB to attend and support.
 - **To-do: Will have debrief meeting after event and with community councils.**
- Presentations to the board in September (open to public).
- May Meeting
 - Canceled, to be replaced by May 4 event.
 - (Jeanne) Motion and second (Carlos). All in favor.
- June Meeting
 - Regular meeting and potluck!
 - **To-do: Yaya will send out a reminder for the June meeting and potluck.**
- July Meeting will be on July 11, 2024.
 - Motion, second, and approved (all in favor).

IV. JWB Updates:

• Best Place to Work: Thursday, May 2nd event to celebrate JWB with an outdoor picnic at Raymond James and celebrate staff. JWB has about 80 team members. Four different generations working for JWB for the first time.

- **JWB Annual KidsFirst Awards Luncheon** on Friday, April 26, 2024, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM at The Coliseum, 535 4th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida.
- Quarterly winners, so four winners, and two Mid-County nominees for McCabe-Dillinger Award including Tracey Schofield (Police & Kids Foundation).
 - **To-do: All, make sure to register for the luncheon.**

• Community Events Funding

- Has been successful. Internal JWB meetings to increase this amount.
- Help Me Grow event & Youth Workshop and Mental Health (North County; Baby Talk in South County, and in Mid-County (PEHMS is doing a mental health workshop in May) and Learning Empowered event in June.
 - **Key consideration: The Mid-County awarded organizations will present to the Council after the event, July 11th meeting.**

Next Meetings: Thursday June 6th, 6:00-7:30 PM @ Public Works Building

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Julianne Perez, Secretary of Mid-County Council