

MINUTES February 6, 2025

Council Members Present: Harold Paxton, Jeanne Lafler, Fidel Johnson, Fred Green, Brenda Carvalho, Deputy Studt, Carol Weideman, Cristine Britt, Richard Rock, Julianne Pérez, Caterina Tassara

Council members Absent: Carol Bumiller, Keith Sabiel, Cheko Carter, Angel Addison, Dianelys Ruiz, Carlos Mercado

Guests: Arelys Escalera, Sergeant Morgan, Anthony W. Verdeja, Lynette Hayden, Spencer Dees, Benisha Jackson, Larissa Jones, Wanda McCawthan, Jennifer Riegel, Marsha Brown, Jessica Conway, Marsha Brown

JWB Staff: Yaridis L. Garcia

I. Call to Order: Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Julianne Perez. All present at the meeting were welcomed and members and guests introduced themselves. Meeting minutes were approved with the following edits: Deputy Studt and Fred Green were present at the January meeting. Meeting minutes were motioned to be approved by Harold Paxton and seconded by Fred Green.

I. Presentations: Power Points Provided

- Boys & Girls Club: Lynnette Hayden, VP Regional Services – Spencer Dees, Club Director at Ridgecrest.
- Family Center on Deafness: Anthony W. Verdeja, Executive Director
- Lealman Christmas Tree Lighting: Caterina Tassara, Lealman & Asian NFC / Lealman Engagement Committee report on grant use
- Thanksgiving Giveback Event: Richard Rock, Program Manager - City of Pinellas Park: Broderick Recreation Center

II. Open Agenda-Community Partners Updates

- Audrey Ables is the new Assistant to the County Administrator located at the Lealman Exchange who will be serving Central and South County.
- Richard Rock shared that ComicCon is a free event coming up. Feb 15th from 10 am - 4 pm at the Broderick Rec. Center in Pinellas Park. Everyone is welcome.
- Learning Empowered is offering the Circle of Security Training for Parents and Caregivers of children 0-5. Classes are 1.5hrs for 5 weeks. Classes begin on February 11th.

- BayCare is working on making sure Spanish speaking community knows about their birthing and maternal infant classes. They are also currently working on the Community Baby Shower.
- The City of Largo hosted a Black History Month event and recognized the impactful neighborhood work in Ridgecrest of Ms. Wanda McCawthan.
- Pinellas Farmer's Market is at the ICOT Center in Pinellas Park and is looking for a new location.

III. Council Business

- Celebrating the Heroes of Caregiving 2025 – The planning team continues to meet before the Mid-County meetings. A draft flyer for review was passed around. It was suggested that the flyer be printed on both sides to reduce the busyness. Yaridis will make edits. Families will receive bags with hurricane preparedness items. Vendors will be asked to donate an item for the family bags. Children will receive haircuts. Non-perishable food will also be distributed among other resources.
- Youth Leadership Committee – Their Mindfully Unwinding event for youth will be held on Saturday, February 8th from 10 am – 12 pm. Please let youth know. There will be a therapist and many giveaways.
- Next Meeting: The agenda will include a Youth Leadership Presentation
- JWB Updates: The Strategic Planning process will begin this spring. As a part of the strategic planning process, we want to hear community feedback from the community councils.
- JWB Children's Summit - The Children's Summit will share JWB's Annual Report. This event is coming up next Friday. All Mid-County Council leadership will be present.
- Community Events Funding Future Meetings/Notices – Yaridis will send out the email with the link to the community events funding application.
- Next JWB Board Meeting: Thursday February 13th at 9:00 AM at JWB
14155 58th Street N, Clearwater, FL 33760 and via YouTube

****NEXT Mid-County Community Council Meeting: Thursday March 6th, 6-7:30 PM**

*The meeting was adjourned by Chair, Julianne Pérez at 7:23 pm.
Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Council Secretary, Caterina*