

MINUTES March 2, 2023

Council Members Present: Richard Rock, Carol Weideman, Julianne Pérez, Sara Bleattler, Deputy C. Studdt, Heather Cameron, Harold M. Paxton, Fidel Johnson, Donna McGill, Keith Sabiel Jr.

Council members Absent: Carol Bumiller, Marilyn Walker, Cheko Carter, Jeanne Lafler, Neil Brickfield, Carlos Mercado, Christine Britt

Guests: Jill-Anne Fowler (Year Up Tampa Bay); Scott Gill (High Point NFC); Janielle McCullough (EVARA Health); Arelys Escalera (Pinellas County Communications)

JWB Staff: Yaridis L. Garcia

- I. **Call to Order- Richard Rock, Chair** at 6:00pm
 - a. Welcome- Members & Guests
 - b. Approval- February minutes; approved with a few minor spelling edits.
- II. **JWB Updates**
 - a. RFP finalized. Capital Grant program currently open for applications on JWB website.
 - b. Turbo Babies had a table at the African American Heritage Festival with good response.
 - c. Provided a flyer for Family Wellness Fair, Saturday March 25, 2023, at 14100 58th St. N. Clearwater FL.
- III. **Council Business:**
 - a. **Work Plan** (Coral Heights Survey, Youth Leadership Committee, Turbo Babies Events, Mental Health Collaboration)
 - i. **Coral Heights Survey:**
 1. Flyer/survey finalized. JWB pending permit before able to mail out.
 2. **To-do: Yaridis** will follow-up with Beth if we are delivery them in person or mailing them.
 - ii. **Youth Leadership Committee:**

1. **Key consideration for ALL:** Seeking a youth representative, at least one from each neighborhood family center and representation from other community groups as well.
 - a. Will be project-led such as: youth town hall for mental health initiative, childhood hunger, etc.
 - b. Will meet via Zoom meetings so it is accessible.
 - c. **Key consideration:** Recruit a teen representative from Coral Heights (could reach out to Pastor Joe about any youth leaders) and St. Catherine of Sienna.
 - d. Donna: Could have a student from Lealman but does not have internet and not in a county school.
 - i. Julianne: Hotspots are available at many local libraries; Largo will be launching hotspots this year.
- iii. **Turbo Babies Events:**
 1. Will have a table at Family Wellness Fair in Highpoint on March 25.
 2. Main message: 80% of brain development occurs 0-3. Turbo Babies campaign to provide activities and quick tips to stimulate brain development.
 3. Will be translating all materials into Spanish but keeping main branding.
 4. **To-do for ALL:** If you have an event coming up that could have a Table Babies table, reach out to Yaridis.
 5. **Key consideration:** Consider having turbo babies table next to book bus and libraries.
- iv. **Mental Health Collaboration**
 1. Pinellas Park Recreation site working on zero suicide campaign with Suncoast, bringing a workshop during Spring Break for ages 8-11.
 - a. Can anonymously sign up for class which will be held at Broderick Recreation Center on March 15 (open for Pinellas Park recreation card members).
 - b. **Key consideration:** JWB may be interested in expanding this to other centers if its well-received.
 - c. Fidel asked if there may be workshops for older students as well.
 - i. Rock: Could be possible in the future.
 2. Pinellas Park looking to convert a rec room into a “Chill Zone”, will have sensory items (LED, touch-feel walls, interactive gaming, bubble light machines, video screens, etc.)
 - a. **Key consideration:** Considering a site visit to Chill Zone for council meeting in May. Yaya will confirm.
 - b. UMA created a quiet room for students to unwind as well.
 - c. Looking to partner with Nina Harris school.
 - d. Sara mentioned they have three rooms in their school, could share ideas.

- e. Pinellas Park rec card is \$5.
- f. **Key consideration:** Can consider other council meetings at other sites, perhaps UMA. Several agreed they liked seeing other locations.

b. Joint Community Councils, Executive Team & JWB Meeting

- i. Meeting is on Monday March 20, 6pm @Juvenile Welfare Board in conference room 105 at 14155 58th St. N Ste. 100, Clearwater, FL, 33760. Leadership team of mid-county council is attending, and all others welcome.
- ii. Open discussion about councils, grant funding, training, etc.
 - 1. Carol mentioned in the past, community councils could each select a council nominated grantee, had supported youth art group once.
 - 2. **Key Consideration:** Yaya mentioned are working on a community funding procedure, for smaller organizations (e.g., supporting a local baby shower). Testing it out this year.
 - a. This came out of council feedback.
 - b. **Key Consideration:** This could be a good project for the youth leadership to sit on RFP selection teams for this type of community grant and gain that experience and provide their perspective.
 - 3. **Key consideration:** Could think of trainings for community councils to attend together. Suggested topics shared:
 - a. **Interested in grants training (how to apply and process)**
 - b. Evara Health has ACEs training available (mentioned last meeting)

c. Roster & Affiliation Update

- i. **To-do for ALL:** Yaridis will send out a google form to update the roster and will include space to share work and volunteer affiliations.

d. Badges

- i. JWB is creating Council Member badges for Fidel, Jeanne and Deputy Studt.

e. Business Leader Recruitment

- i. Looking for a business leader to be a representative on mid-county council.
 - 1. **To-do: Richard** can look for a business rep from Chamber.

IV. Open Agenda:

- a. **Donna:** Accreditation process completed successfully for LANFC!
- b. **Julianne:** Youth Climate Action Day on March 4 at 12:30pm. Sign-up at [SignUp | Demco Software \(evanced.info\)](#). Let me know if there are any earth day events!
 - i. **Jill:** Moccasin Lake Nature Park, April 22nd event.
- c. **Jill Fowler (Year Up Tampa Bay and on Hispanic Council):** Jill shared an introduction of herself and Year Up! (Shared flyers with information as well.)
 - i. Worked for Suncoast Hospice as mid-county teen program coordinator for many years.

- ii. Year Up is a national organization, based in 20 areas around country. Goal to provide meaningful careers to young adults 18-29 who may not have opportunity or resources to go beyond high school. Free post-secondary program (6-12 months long, 6 months training and 6 months internship).
- iii. Focused on business, banking and IT. Preparing students for corporate jobs (JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, etc.)
 - 1. Program is free, receive small stipend of \$200 during training, then for internship they get paid \$525 per week for entry/mid-level.
 - 2. Based at SPC Mid-town but covers all of Tampa Bay.
 - 3. Jill is community outreach, admissions, and recruiter.
 - 4. Tampa Bay site has been operating for 4 years, went online during pandemic.
 - 5. Goals:
 - a. Spread the word about program.
 - b. Uphold mission of educational and economic equity.
 - c. Students successful in career and life.
 - 6. Location: Some training in St. Pete, internships in Tampa (many).
 - 7. Each student is assigned a coach who meets with them weekly. They have a full-time social worker on staff as well.
 - 8. **Key consideration:** Jill can also help connect people in community with social worker.
 - 9. Started with 30 students at SPC, now we have 70 through SPC and Pearl Site.
 - 10. Students go through an application process, includes a short essay.
 - 11. Will have 100 interviews and then select 70. Goal is to have 80% make it through internship.
 - 12. Eligibility: on flyer.
 - 13. **Key consideration/concern:** Students from non-accredited GED institutions will not be eligible to apply.
 - a. Several other council members and guests noted experiences with issues of non-accredited GED programs.

Upcoming Meetings:

- 1. Joint Community Councils Executive Team Meeting, March 20, 6pm at Juvenile Welfare Board, 14155 58th St. N Ste. 100, Clearwater, FL, 33760, Conference Room 105.
- 2. Mid-County Community Council: Thursday April 6, 6:00 PM @ Pinellas Park Public Works Building

V. Meeting Adjourned

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Julianne Pérez, Secretary of Mid-County Community Council