

MINUTES

January 11, 2024

Council Members Present: Harold Paxton, Jeanne Lafler, Richard Rock, Carlos Mercado, Fidel Johnson, Julianne Pérez, Carol Bumiller, Carol Weideman, Christine Britt, Deputy Corey Studt.

Council members Absent: Carol Bumiller, Carlos Mercado, Keith Sabiel, Neil Brickfield, Fred Green, Cheko Carter, Angel Addison

Guests: Chris Mathews (Kinship Children's Home), Lisa Elliot (Champions for Children), Ada Ward-Timmons (LEADS), Arelys Escalera (Pinellas County Communications); Jillian Rose (City of Pinellas Park); Tracey Schofield (Police & Kids Foundation); Caterina Tassara (Lealman Asian NFC), Caprice Edmond (Help Me Grow), Emilio Diaz (Help Me Grow), Jessica Conway (Learning Empowered); Marsha Brown (PC Schools 21st Century Strategic Partnership).

JWB Staff: Yaridis L. Garcia; Elicia Hinson (Marketing Associate, JWB); Colleen M. Flynn, JWB Legal Counsel

I. Call to Order- Richard Rock, Chair at 6:01 PM

- a. Welcome- Members & Guests
- b. Approval- November Minutes.
 - i. Quorum present, minutes approved.

II. Open Agenda-Community Partners Updates

- a. Richard Rock: Broderick center – Having a BrodCon, south of park Blvd. First year doing this event. Over twenty-two vendors. Free entry. Comic books, video games, Pokémon cards, two players from outer rim studios, Saturday 10am-4pm, Jan 13 (all proceeds from food go to TeenWorkX foundation to support teen volunteers in city, funding to clean up parks, buy items during Christmas break, etc.)
- b. Ms. Edmond: Help me grow hosting screenings and resources, head start location, Jan 17, 3-5pm and Jan 19 9am-12pm (Tall pines Largo)
 - i. Turbo babies, early steps, etc.
- c. Perez: Ridgecrest youth violence, significant impact on community
 - i. **Consideration: Could coordinate with Becky Albert, community conversation about mental health.**

- ii. Fidel: This was one of our students' siblings involved. Significant impact on family.
- d. Lisa Elliot, Champions for Children, services for Pinellas Families
 - i. Professional lactation
 - ii. Development playgroups 0-5 (6 weeks but they can repeat, once a week)
 - iii. Developmental screenings
 - iv. Operating from High Point Youth Empowerment Center for Mid-County open to all Pinellas County.
 - 1. Currently looking to hire early childhood development that speak Spanish.
 - v. **All: Encourage pre-registration.**
- e. Pinellas Park: Jillian, launched YES program, designed for teens. Adults usually attend Citizen's Academy. YES program allows them to meet with a different Department each week (will get to build a resume in HR, will get to meet with Fleet and learn about engine fluids and tire pressure, healthy cooking with fire fighter, city council meeting, RPA to find out about leisure services and open positions for teens and volunteer opportunities, Public safety academy training for PD and Fire department will get full CPR certification). Plan to do it annually.
- f. Lealman Asian Neighborhood Family Center will host VITA Tax program, Jan 25-April, will have appointments available.
 - i. Share for Lealman, Pinellas Park, Kenneth City
 - ii. The Largo Library will also be open, no appointments.
- g. Learning Empowered, Jessica Conway
 - i. Looking for program information in English and Spanish.
 - ii. At New Heights, High Point.
 - iii. **NEED MORE SPANISH FLYERS!**
 - iv. National Mentors Month, program is for 3–6-year-old.
- h. LEADS organization: Still recruiting for high school students. Ages 14-19. Also offer parenting support.
 - i. **Can get Spanish flyers to Yaridis to share with group.**
 - ii. Reach out if there are fathers looking for a full day workshop on parenting (includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner)

III. Presentation- Council Training, Colleen M. Flynn, JWB Legal Counsel

- a. Does not work at JWB but she is the legal counsel for JWB.
 - i. Included a handout presentation.
 - ii. **Sunshine Law: could call and talk to JWB staff but need to make sure if you are talking to any other members or guests that it is NOT about formal council action (a vote or decision-based conversation).**
 - iii. **For votes, need to note specifically how it passes, 6-4, etc. Need to have chart of names and vote and who signed what, or a vote by a show of hands.**
 - iv. Discussion on Level 2 background checks
 - 1. JWB Council members just has level 1
 - 2. Do councils have 1:1 situation with youth? Or in a daycare setting?

- a. Section 7 of the Bylaws details when a supervisor sees any violation.
- 3. Would suspect most people are current on screening because of their job.
- 4. **Key consideration: Could bring this to JWB leadership to ask what they want?**
- v. Discussion of other rules of conduct:
 - 1. Yes, you can lock the door at the meeting location for safety, just be available to open it.
 - 2. Yes, you can ride together to meetings, but do not discuss votes. If you are in a formal role as a City Council member for example, then it would not be advisable.
 - 3. Need to open to public comment first, then vote.
 - a. If a hot topic, should have specific rules. Can set rules for specific purposes to any amount of appropriate time. 1 minute, 2 minutes.
- vi. JWB staff cannot have dual employment at a funded agency, prohibited by law (e.g., cannot teach Yoga at an agency) OR volunteer at a funded agency.
 - 1. Example: If you recommend a caterer and it is your husband, then you should not vote as a council member on that caterer.
- vii. Councils no longer make any funding recommendation decision for JWB.
- viii. **Email is a public record, anything to JWB or received from JWB. Do not council business on email. NO REPLY ALL!**

IV. Council Business

- a. **Meeting Time: Survey available to take tonight or BEFORE next meeting.**
- b. Work Plan FY2024 (will review at next meeting and executive councils meeting)
- c. Grand Families Events-Planning Committee
 - i. Budget approved by JWB.
 - ii. Creating flyer and postcards (Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese)
 - iii. Saturday, May 4, at Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center
 - 1. Multi-lingual event
 - iv. **Will send email to planning team tomorrow.**
- d. Celebrating Our Families Feedback
 - i. Thank you to all!
 - ii. Teen volunteers.
 - iii. **To-do: For future events, if we have a photographer ask others not to take their own photos. Overwhelming to guests.**
- e. Community Funding
 - i. No more than 180 days to apply.
 - ii. Currently N. County and S. County have applied, no Mid-County.
 - iii. \$500-\$3,000 dollars grants (\$15,000 per year).
 - iv. Will probably increase amount for next fiscal year.

- V. JWB Updates:** Turbo Babies – Elicia Hinson is the new Marketing Associate
- i. Children 0-3 years old. 80% of brain growth during this phase.
 - ii. Parents as the first and best teachers.
 - iii. Task: spreading the word!
 - iv. Reach out to Elicia Hinson if you want Turbo Babies at your next event!**
- b. Youth Leadership Committee
- i. 9 active youth from North, Mid and South working with Childhood hunger Initiative, putting together a food box, healthy ingredients and a recipe.
- c. Other Events:
- i. 1/15 MLK Breakfast (Clearwater) 9am breakfast, everyone invited.
 - ii. Friends of Ridgecrest, 1/15 MLK Day Flyer (9am parade, 10am ceremony, 11am-2pm Fish Fry Fundraiser).
- VI. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM**

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