

## MINUTES

June 5, 2025

**Council Members Present:** Julianne Pérez, Richard Rock, Jeanne Lafler, Fidel Johnson, Caterina Tassara, Brenda Carvalho, Angel Addison, Christine Britt, Carlos Mercado, Fred Green

**Council Members Absent:** Harold Paxton Jr., Carol Weideman, Cheko Carter, Dianelys Ruiz, Carol Bumiller, Keith Sabiel

**Guests:** Arelys Escalera – Pinellas County, Meg Taylor – Pinellas Park Library, Sgt. Morgan – Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Godfrey – Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Jillian Rose-City of Pinellas Park, Jessica Conway-Learning Empowered.

**JWB Staff:** Yaridis L. Garcia

- I. Call to Order:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
  - A. Welcome – Member and guest introductions.
  - B. May Minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Richard Rock and seconded by Christine Britt. Minutes were approved.
- II. Election – Vice Chair**

Fidel Johnson was nominated by Julianne, Christine, Angel and Carlos were also nominated by members. Members voted and Fidel was elected by the Council as the new Vice Chair effective in the July Meeting.
- III. Open Agenda - Community Partner Updates**
  - Pinellas County Sheriff's Office – Deputy Studt is no longer on the Board. Sgt. Morgan and Deputy Godfrey were present. New Deputy will be assigned; Yaridis will receive notification.
  - Learning Empowered is having a Juneteenth event on June 20<sup>th</sup> 4-7 pm for families with dinner. This is one of the events funded by the JWB Community Events funding.
  - There is a Juneteenth event at Ridgecrest YMCA on the 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 am – until the afternoon. There will be fish-fry and performances. Everyone is invited to attend.
  - City of Largo is looking for locations on the east side of town to have a table to communicate about the City's Strategic Plan and get input. If anyone has events in July or August, please let Julianne know. Yaridis will connect Julianne with an organization in High Point that is hosting a Back-to-School Event sponsored by the Community Events Funding.
  - Fred from the High Point Neighborhood Family Center has a new pilot program for kids ages 6-11 focused on mental health. They are also having a baby shower on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

- Pinellas Technical College is having a “Jane” program for young woman to learn to change tires and technical skills. Julianne will share these flyers.
- June 7<sup>th</sup> Kiwanis Fishing Derby for kids 12 and under. It starts at 7:30 am and goes through 11 am. SPC Pinellas Park is having a July 26<sup>th</sup> Back to School event for families. They also give away bikes, helmets, and life vests. Pinellas Park Gateway Chamber of Commerce coordinates this event. She can be reached at [Nancy@PinellasChamber.com](mailto:Nancy@PinellasChamber.com) (727) 544-4777.
- On Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 1 pm at the Clearwater East Community Library there will be a Hurricane Community Expo for the Latino community. This event is being funded by Community Events Funding. The event is open to everyone. This is a bilingual event. The Care About Me is in Pinellas County Schools that provide services to connect families with resources. The American Red Cross also has resources.
- Richard Rock Pinellas Park Rec. Center - Summer camp ages 5-12 has started. July 1<sup>st</sup> is the first day for after-care signups. Contact Richard for more information.
- Evara Health – Everyone Everything Everybody event handouts were distributed. They are having an open house next week. Yaridis will distribute the information.
- Ready for Life Pinellas is looking for volunteers for an event coming up.
- There was a conversation bringing to light the need to have hurricane preparedness information for kids and for parents. There is an opportunity here for JWB to take the lead and for the Community Councils to provide input on how parents/families can protect children’s mental health during hurricane season.
- Grand Families event debrief – Council Members suggested selecting another date that does not conflict with Mother’s Day weekend. Look at collaborating with Hurricane Preparedness events with the County. Look at having less loud moments. Look at breaking up the event to have a quiet time and a fun party time. We received a lot of feedback. Thank you to everyone that participated and helped. It was beautiful to see families receiving flowers and great to see police officers distributing flowers along with the youth.  
Next steps: We need more folks to stay to clean up. We need to set up an early shift and a late shift of volunteers. Jomar Lopez will be compiling evaluation data again this year. We had about 246 in attendance. Flowers were donated from Fletch in Pinellas Park located at 10440 66<sup>th</sup> St. unit #4. We need to ensure that guests understand that the haircuts were free. There should also be “crews” like trash etc. Look at May 30<sup>th</sup> or the first week in June for the 2026 event.
- Summer Events – books bus and back to school events are being coordinated across the County. There will be meals distributed at 28 sites across the County. Yaridis will send out more information to members. July 26<sup>th</sup> in Pinellas Park, Largo Public Library is August 2<sup>nd</sup>, PAL has their event on that same day as well from 9 am – 12 pm.
- There are various Break Spots throughout the County. Yaridis distributed flyers.

#### **IV. JWB Updates**

- JWB Board Meetings – Current CEO retires July 11<sup>th</sup>. 2 new Board Members have been appointed. The interim CEO will be active for 10 months and there is a search committee. Mr. Michael Mikurak was appointed as interim CEO effective June 9<sup>th</sup>. Chief Millican has been elected as the new chairperson of the JWB Board of Directors starting in October. The next Board meeting will be June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Community Events Funding – Very little funding is still available for any non-profit organization coordinating a small grassroots event. Grant amounts vary between \$500 - \$3,000 per applicant and more information can be found on the JWB website under the

Community Council's informational page. Questions can also be answered by Yaridis Garcia.

**V. Council Business**

Yaridis handed out the Work Plan for the Mid County Council. Members are encouraged to review, and we will discuss it at the July meeting.

- Next meeting is Thursday July 3<sup>rd</sup> and there will not be a meeting in August.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was called at 7:32 pm by Chair Julianne Pérez.

*Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Council Secretary, Caterina Tassara*