

MEETING MINUTES

October 9, 2025

Council Members Present: Julianne Pérez, Fidel Johnson, Brenda Carvalho, Caterina Tassara, Christine Britt, Jessica Conway, Deputy Anthony Borbonio, Cheko Carter, Jeanne Laffler, Cristine Britt, Jessica Conway

Council Members Absent: Carlos Mercado, Keith Sabel, Angel Addison, Harold Paxton, Carol Weidman, Richard Rock, Fred Green

Guests: Zulekha Foulén, Audrey Ables, Aoy Santamusk, Meg Taylor, Sylvia Acevedo, Thomas Payne, Devon Matia

JWB Staff: Yaridis L. Garcia, Jerome Kynard

I. Call to Order

Julianne Pérez, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Welcome – Member and guest introductions.

Approval – September Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Brenda Carvalho and Jessica Conway, seconded.

II. Presentation: Movida 2025

Zulekha Foulén presented on behalf of Jessica Estévez, who was unable to join us. The mission of Mi Gente Mi Pueblo is to activate and fuel our community for social justice through storytelling, healing, and advocacy. Their first Movida event happened online during 2020, at the height of COVID. It was all online. Movida is now a non-profit. This year's theme was "Reclamando Our Untold Stories". Community members were invited to explore how storytelling can restore dignity and spark collective action through live performances, wellness, workshops, and a youth-led arts market. Additional activities included a "Healers Among Us" activity and a partnership with Vecina Café. There was music, dancing, and a sense of emotional safety. More information can be found on MiGenteMiPueblo.com and on social media. Key outcomes included showcasing the work of 60+ local artists and entrepreneurs, 23 vendors, and over 2,000 volunteer hours. The event was held at Allendale Church in St. Petersburg on September 20th, with over 200 individuals attending.

III. Open Agenda: Community Partner Updates

- The City of Pinellas Park has an agricultural farm called the Patti Johnson Farm that is free to the public. All are welcome. There are cows, donkeys, pigs etc. for children and families to learn about. On Saturday, October the 25th, there will be a trunk-o-treat called Cooper's Howl-o-Ween, and community partners are invited to come showcase their programs and participate in the event. On October the 25th from 2-3:30 pm, the Senior Action Guild of Education Services (SAGES) will also be hosting a play focused on an educational theme. The next one will cover the topic of dementia and caregiving. This event will be available free of charge. Doors open at 1 pm. Next year, there will also be a play on dealing with the loss of a loved one. All are invited.
- Learning Empowered: On Thursday, Oct 16th, from 6-8 pm, there will be a family-friendly event geared toward helping caregivers with autistic children. The cost of this event is \$15. They are also hosting upcoming baby events for infants and parents. All are encouraged to refer families and to check their website for more information.
- The R Club – Devin is a liaison for the Fatherhood Collaborative. The Fatherhood Collaborative's next meeting will be on October 17th at 11 am at JWB. Fathers are invited to participate in “Brother, Are You Good?” - a family fun day to support healthy child development with fun activities such as mindful meditation, foam fun. The event will be held on October 25th at 2 pm. They will also be hosting a “Fueling Fathers” event with a car show in November in partnership with Turbo Babies. Contact the Fatherhood Collaborative for directions and to get involved.
- Help Me Grow – They are hosting a developmental screening event for children called “Books, Balls, and Blocks” coming up on November 7th. Contact Help Me Grow to sign up any families in need.
- Truck or Treat is happening on October 25th from 5-6 pm on 139th Avenue.
- Deputy Borbonio thanked Yaridis for the backpacks that were given to the High Point Neighborhood. There were many children and families who received them and who were incredibly grateful to receive them.
- Lealman Harvest Fall Festival – This family-friendly event is happening later in October in at the Lealman Community Park. There will be booths with carnival-like games, food, and more. Please share with the community.
- Pinellas Park Library –They have partnered with Gulf Coast Legal Services for monthly legal support services to the community. Every second Wednesday and every Monday, Metro Ministries is also there to help the unhoused. The library is also hosting a monthly local author's event. Check the website or contact Meg for more information.
- High Point will be hosting an event on October the 24th for families to learn about Polio. The event starts at 6 pm. Contact High Point for more information.

IV. Council Business

Work Plan Review – The Mid-County Council Executive Committee met in August to discuss the current work plan. The work plan was updated to better show the impact of the Community Council. The plan now highlights the two main events coordinated by the Council: Grand Families and Adopt-A-Family Holiday Celebration. Julianne suggested that the unique quality of our Community Council is to connect with the unincorporated areas. She also suggested moving numbers 1-5 to the front page. Caterina suggested MCC Work Plan FY 24-26 be changed to Priorities and MCC Work Plan FY 24-26 be called Action Items. The Family Dinner will also be updated to the Carol Bumiller Adopt-A-Family Holiday Celebration. After discussion, a motion was made to approve the work plan, with the suggested changes, by Fidel with Brenda seconding it. The motion passed unanimously.

The Taster Beal community center in the Ridgecrest area is looking for funding and a lead for the Food Pantry with funding to support utilities, food, and waste. If anyone has a recommendation for a funding source, please let Julianne know.

The Youth Leadership Committee met yesterday, and the meeting was very well attended. They will be doing a presentation in March to update our Council on their work throughout the year. The youth meet monthly, with some meetings being virtual, on the second Wednesdays of every month. We are incredibly proud of the work the youth are doing for their respective communities.

Social Network Map - Jomar Lopez and Yaridis are working on the Social Networking Map to show the breadth of connections within the county councils. This map will be showcased at the County Council's meeting at the JWB meeting in November. At the meeting, there will be legislative updates, JWB updates, opportunities for networking, and sharing of resources. If anyone on the Council needs a badge and a shirt, please let Yaridis know. There were also many acronyms used. Please let Yaridis know if you used any acronyms.

Carol Bumiller Adopt-A-Family Holiday Celebration – This year's event will be on Weds. Dec 17th in Pinellas Park from 6 – 8 pm. If anyone has a family in mind experiencing hardships, we should give the information to Julianne. Gifts should be turned in a week earlier and wrapped, and have the ages and gender of the child, along with the wish list. This year we have 16 families identified thus far. Please give the wish list to Julianne before the end of the month. Thanks to the Carol Bumiller donations, we are in a good position to support all the families. Julianne was also able to secure Santa and Mrs. Claus. We are very excited to also welcome Carol Bumiller's family to this very special event.

Make A Difference Day – This is a special opportunity for the Council to give back to the community. It will be held on November 1st at the Lealman and Asian Neighborhood Family Center. This is a great opportunity for Council members and the community to participate in a project to better a fellow non-profit serving an unincorporated area with families and children in need in mid-county.

V. JWB Updates

Yaridis updated the Council on the last JWB Board Meeting where she presented the results and highlights of the Grand Families Event. Commissioner Latlava, please keep him in your prayers.

- Joint Community Councils meeting will be held on November 6th @JWB. Julianne, Fidel, and Caterina will be representing Mid-County Council. The executive committee will have an opportunity to share what is working in their communities, and for the Executive Committees of each of the Councils to share the work of the Councils and learn more from one another.
- Community Events Funding is up on the JWB website. If folks know of any organization in need, please encourage them to apply on the website. Funding is available from \$500 up to \$3,000 per event. This project has been a great success and has made a significant contribution to the efforts throughout Pinellas County to serve the community. Questions can be answered by Yaridis Garcia and there is information on the funding on the JWB website.

Members are encouraged to participate in the upcoming four sessions provided in partnership with the Heart Association about proper nutrition and blood pressure, starting on October the 21st.

Future Meetings/Notices

- JWB Board Meeting: Wednesday October 15th, 9-11:00 AM
14155 58th Street N, Clearwater, FL 33760 & via the JWB YouTube Channel.
- Joint Community Councils Meeting: Thursday November 6th, 6-8:00 PM
JWB 14155 58th Street N, Clearwater, FL 33760

A motion to adjourn the meeting was called at 7:16 pm by Chair Julianne Pérez.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Council Secretary, Caterina Tassara