

MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2026

Council Members Present: Fred Green, Angel Addison, Julianne Pérez, Brenda Carvalho, Christine Britt, Jeanne Lafler, Deputy Anthony Borbonio, Fidel Johnson, Carol Weideman, Caterina Tassara, Camille Hebling, Alicia Ponds, Summer Pineda, Isabella Mouradian

Council Members Absent: Keith Sabiel, Harold M. Paxton Jr., Cheko Carter, Jessica Conway, Jillian Rose, Maribeth Hepburn

Guests: Alicia McShea, JWB Board of Directors, Vicky Obando (United for the Community), Jean Albert (Heritage UMC Quilters), Arelys Escalera (Pinellas County), Cory Brandt (Pinellas County)

JWB Staff: Yaridis L. Garcia, Becky Albert, Cristina Quintana, Immaculate Matt

I. Call to Order

- Julianne Pérez called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm and welcomed all members and guests to the meeting. Guests, Board and Council members were welcomed to tour the new, beautiful Horizon West Bay campus that houses Largo City Hall. Thank you, Julianne, for the comprehensive tour of the facility.
- Approval of Council Minutes – Carol Weidman motioned to approve the minutes, Fidel Johnson seconded. The Minutes were approved as submitted.

II. Open Agenda - Community Partners Updates

This was postponed due to time constraints of this meeting.

III. Presentations

• Belleair Garden Club - Hilles Smith, President

The Belleair Garden Club was a funded partner of the community events funding grant this year. They are dedicated to horticulture and the preservation of a historic building built in 1931. They used funding to put on a mini camp for their community's children. The focus of the camp was an introduction to, and education of plants delivered through a comprehensive science program. We extend a warm thank you to the Belleair Garden Club for everything they are doing to engage families and children.

• Turbo Babies - Cristina Quintana, JWB Marketing Specialist

The campaign is making an intentional effort to partner with medical professionals to

help push the 4 turbo tips: tune in, talk and repeat, take turns, take time. The Turbo Babies Campaign has been very successful, and their message that 80% of brain growth happens before age 3 has been very well received throughout the community. So much so that across Pinellas County Libraries are hosting Turbo Babies events for families. To learn more about Turbo Babies, please visit the JWB website or contact Cristina.

IV. Council Business

• **Grand Families - Evaluation and Next Year** - Saturday, May 1st, 2027, at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center. There will be a hurricane preparedness focus. The Council also wishes to thank Ms. Jean Albert from Heritage UMC Quilters for her generous donation of a beautiful quilt that was presented to a grand family at this year's event. It was a beautiful gesture!

• **Work Plan and Election Subcommittee** - We need members to volunteer. Our goal is to work with 3 volunteers with Yaridis. Fidel, Fred, Christine, Dr. Ponds, and Julianne volunteered for the Work Plan subcommittee. For the Election subcommittee, the responsibility will be to facilitate the voting process in September. A meeting will be held in August to reach out to our candidates. Camille, Carol, and Jillian volunteered.

• **Back to School Events**

- Yaridis will send out an email with all the Back-to-School events that JWB is participating in.
- United for the Community will be having a back-to-school event this Saturday in Clearwater, off Ulmerton Road. Backpacks will be distributed, resources, food, and health screenings will be available.
- PAL will be at the Lealman Exchange on Saturday August 1st from 9 am – 11 am. LANFC will be there to help staff the JWB table and get family support information out to families.
- In Largo, (August 1st) there will be a backpack event from 1-3:30 pm at the Largo Library.
- In Pinellas Park at the England Brothers Park (August 8th) there will also be an event where JWB will be present.

• **Book Bus Update** – The Book Bus has been a huge success this year. A big thank you to everyone who participated and to the volunteers who walked the neighborhood last month, putting door signs on homes to invite the community to the Book Bus.

• **Joint Community Councils Meeting** – Mid-County Council members should mark their calendars for Thursday, November 5th, 5:30-8:00 PM at JWB. More information will be shared at the September meeting.

• **NO MEETING IN AUGUST** – There will be upcoming elections in September for the Executive Leadership Committee to begin in October. If any Council members are interested, please contact Yaridis or Julianne. In the meantime, there will be a subcommittee that will also meet in August to review the work plan for the year to come.

V. JWB Updates

• Strategic Plan & Budget

Members are encouraged to attend in person or tune into the JWB YouTube channel to view meetings. Next on the agenda will be the budget for JWB, the millage rate, and the strategic plan.

• 80th Anniversary & Proclamations

As a part of JWB's 80th anniversary, JWB will be celebrating throughout Pinellas County at various events where Proclamations will be made and by gathering impact stories from families helped and community partners. One of these events is coming up in Pinellas Park City Hall on July 21st. Mid-County Council Members are invited to attend. Yaridis will follow up with more information. Ideally, if 3 Members could attend. If anyone is available, please let Yaridis know.

Please refer below to the upcoming meeting notices for the Board of Directors meeting agendas and minutes. Fred Green of High Point Neighborhood Family Center commented that at the last Board meeting, a book of children's stories and illustrations was shared with the Board. JWB Board member Alicia McShea commented on how well received the books were and that she keeps hers on her coffee table and loves to show it off.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was called at 7:35 pm by Chair Julianne Pérez.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Council Secretary, Caterina Tassara

Future Meetings/Notices

JWB Board Meeting: July 23, 2026, from 9-11:00 AM
JWB 14155 58th Street N, Clearwater, FL 33760 & YouTube

- Mid-County Council Meeting: Thursday, September 10th, 6:00-7:30 PM