

APPROVED
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE, 1ST FLOOR CHAMBERS
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2010 – 6:30 P.M.

Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance	
		Present	Absent
Dr. Magdalene Lewis, Chair	P	7	0
Laura Clark, Vice Chair	P	5	2
Shezette Blue-Small (arr. 6:57 pm)	P	1	0
Joseph Discepola	P	5	1
Edna Elijah	P	5	2
Elaine Fiore	A	2	2
Roland Foulkes (arr. 6:37 pm)	P	5	0
Nancy Green	A	4	1
Trisha Halliday	P	5	0
Katie Leach	A	3	2
Alan Levy (arr. 7:06)	P	5	2
Maureen Persi, Ed.D.	A	1	1
Lillian Small	A	5	2

Appointed members to the Board: 13
 Needed to constitute a quorum: 7

Staff

Julie Richards, Staff Liaison
 Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Students

Sade Smith
 Bryana Bell
 Lidisis Machin

As of this date, there are 13 appointed members to the Board, which means 7 would constitute a quorum.

Communications to City Commission

The Education Advisory Board would like to recommend to the City Commission to fill the current vacancies on the Centennial Committee with as diverse a representation of this City as possible in order to expand the education of residents of Fort Lauderdale about the complete history of Fort Lauderdale, and as further vacancies arise, to make it a priority to draw from their diverse constituencies so that complete history could be presented to students in all schools within the City of Fort Lauderdale.

A. Opening

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m., and announced that since there was not a quorum, she would skip some items until later in the meeting.

Chair Lewis asked the student members present to introduce themselves. Bryana Bell introduced herself and said she was a senior at Fort Lauderdale High School. Lidisis Machin, who is also a senior at Fort Lauderdale High School, introduced herself.

C. Current Business (taken out of order)

1. Centennial Celebration Plans

Chair Lewis introduced Ms. Wyngate Payne of the Centennial Celebration Committee.

Ms. Payne remarked that since the Advisory Board's last presentation on the Centennial Celebration, a lot of work has been done. She handed out folders and explained the contents.

Ms. Payne commented that Susan Gillis is available to consult with historical groups or other groups who wish to pursue the history of their community or their organization. Ms. Gillis will also be conducting a workshop on how to conduct such research.

Ms. Payne said they have trained 17 people to present slide shows to community groups on the history of Fort Lauderdale. This Speakers' Bureau will also be made available to the school system, and the presentations are FCAT compliant. In addition to the slide show, they have containers full of reproduction artifacts to display.

She reported that School Board member Ms. Dinnen has joined the Committee and is exploring ways they can use the Becon facilities to teach Fort Lauderdale history.

Ten bronze plaques are on order that describe for whom local parks are named. They are encouraging community groups to use the unveiling of the plaques as an opportunity to have celebrations at the parks.

If they receive the funds for them, the Committee has two major capital projects. One is the lighting of the 17th Street Bridge with multi-colored changing lights. The other is a history project. They have been working with the Trailblazers and the **Blackward** Walk of History on that project, which will probably take place on Sistrunk Boulevard. The Committee is funding three performances by an acting group to bring to life the oral history that the Trailblazers have been collecting.

Ms. Payne continued that they have applied for four State Historic Markers commemorating the following:

- The first Wade In
- First and second Forts Lauderdale

- Annie Tommie camp (last Seminole camp in Fort Lauderdale)

There will be a series of four exhibits to be displayed in public libraries and other public places.

The Committee has also worked on a photo montage that can be shown against building walls and will also be available as a loop at the airport. Additionally, community groups may show it. Four of these montages will be pegged to historic events in each of the City's four Commission districts, and four will be pegged to a variety of themes.

Ms. Payne mentioned that various community groups are doing historical presentations on their own.

Chair Lewis was curious about how the FCAT compliance was progressing, and Ms. Payne said that they will be meeting with Dr. Ball and Ms. Gory to make sure the materials are compliant.

Chair Lewis brought up the Wade In, noting that would be an interesting event. Ms. Payne showed a photo of a marker for John U. Lloyd Beach, commemorating a "colored beach" and the history of segregation and desegregation of public facilities in Broward County.

Mr. Discepola asked about the purpose of the volunteer request form that was in the packet, and Ms. Payne remarked that it was meant for groups to request a speaker.

Ms. Elijah wondered when the deadline was for working on the history of different communities, and Ms. Payne answered that there was no deadline. If someone wants to work with Ms. Gillis on this project, they should send the request form in. Ms. Gillis will be available in January to work with groups. Ms. Payne added that Ms. Vezina is their PIO representative, and all of the requests flow through her.

Mr. Foulkes commented that the Broward County Schools have over 160 different nationalities represented, and he wondered if all of those students would see themselves in the historical commemoration.

Ms. Payne answered that they are hopeful that will be the case. She said that their major problem is finding the photographs of the early Black communities in depth, and they have put out an appeal for photographs from that era. They are also having issues getting information on the influx of Hispanics. She continued that they are working closely with the Trailblazers for information on the early Black communities. Ms. Payne remarked they are trying to get more information on residents who were not picked up on the 1910 census.

Mr. Foulkes commented on the artist who was chosen to make the poster for the Celebration, remarking that he was from out of the area and did not know the diversity

in the City. He strongly encouraged the Committee to identify local artists if there are future opportunities for such projects.

Mr. Foulkes was curious what the theme of the Centennial was, and Ms. Payne replied they do not have a theme/slogan. They have a logo with "100" and the City sailboat on it. The poster had been arranged by the Winterfest people. She said she does not have enough feedback on the Sistrunk Memorial to describe it well.

Mr. Foulkes brought up the June 2010 issue of "Go Riverwalk," and he commented that the Editor-in-Chief Cindi Hutchinson was also on the Celebration Committee. Ms. Payne remarked that Ms. Hutchinson had resigned from the Committee. Mr. Foulkes continued that he had contacted Ms. Hutchinson regarding the cover picture and articles in that issue. He was concerned that the publication excluded "other voices" from the non-White communities. He wrote a letter on November 1 expressing his concerns to the Mayor and all the others who authored articles in that issue. He brought copies of that letter for the Board.

He asserted that in planning these events, the "default category is always the White history of Fort Lauderdale." He wondered about the diversity of the Centennial Committee, and alerted Ms. Payne and others that "you need to take this into consideration in every step of your planning." He said Blacks live all over Fort Lauderdale and contribute to all aspects of life here. Further, he said he was not impressed so far with what he has seen with the planning, programs and processes for a "cosmopolitan city" like Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Payne told Mr. Foulkes that it would be helpful to suggest to the City Commission that they look for diversity in their appointments. She said the African-American members of the Committee come from Commissioner DuBose's district, and the Committee members are all City Commission appointees. She said a number of people on the Committee would be grateful for his efforts to assist with the issue.

Mr. Foulkes then brought up the images and materials shown on publications for tourists, noting they are mostly Whites. He said there is one multi-cultural brochure that is targeted to the Black community and anyone else who is non-White. He said he is ashamed to bring visitors to town and show them the marketing materials.

Ms. Payne asked Mr. Foulkes if he was aware of the Visioning Committee, and suggested to him to contact them. She added she would be "delighted" to take his concerns back to the Centennial Committee.

Chair Lewis told Ms. Payne that a person named Maude Storr has a wealth of material that would be helpful to the Centennial Committee.

Chair Lewis than returned to the agenda, beginning with the roll call.

- **Attendance and Sign-in**

There was a quorum in attendance.

- **Introduce New Members (None)**
- **Guest Introductions (Already addressed)**

Approve Minutes (October 2010) (Taken out of order)

Ms. Elijah noted that in the cumulative attendance column, there should be a “1” instead of a “0” for Ms. Small.

Mr. Foulkes said that all references to “Mr. Stanley” of Dillard, should be “Ms. Stanley.”

Mr. Foulkes wanted to change the minutes on page 8, paragraph 6, to add that Dillard Elementary had been an “A” school in 2004, 2005, 2008 and 2009. He said it was not stated at the meeting, but he wanted that information included. It was pointed out that the October minutes cannot be changed now, but it can be noted in the November minutes as a correction.

On page 9, paragraph 3, Mr. Foulkes said that he thought he had mentioned the issue date of the “Go Riverwalk Magazine” and wanted to add “June 2010” in parentheses after the name of the magazine.

Motion by Ms. Elijah, seconded by Mr. Foulkes, to approve the minutes as corrected. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Communications to City Commission (None at this time)

C. Current Business

Ms. Elijah noticed that a student had entered the meeting and wanted her to be introduced.

Sade Smith introduced herself, saying she was a senior from Stranahan High School. She said the other student, Gloria, could not be present.

Mr. Levy thanked the students for being present.

1. Centennial Celebration Plans

Vice Chair Clark returned to the prior discussion about Mr. Foulkes’ letter, saying that she thought the magazine did not intentionally leave out the non-Whites, but probably just were “not thinking.” She said it pointed out the need to educate people on diversity.

Ms. Elijah agreed and said that if a mistake was made, it needs to be corrected right now, and not in 100 years.

Mr. Foulkes appreciated the support, but said he is tired of reminding people that “he is here.” He commented that he hopes that after reading his letter, the recipients will no longer think of people who look like themselves as the “default category.” He wanted to see a new default, one of inclusion.

Mr. Levy remarked that he remembered this discussion from the last meeting, but that was as far as it went. He thought that if they had made a resolution to inquire about it, it would have been good. He added that no matter what one says or does, there is always another side to the story.

Mr. Foulkes brought up the idea of a Communication to the City Commission. He suggested asking the City Commissioners who still have appointments to make, to reach out to other communities. Mr. Foulkes read a list of the people who are on the Centennial Committee.

Ms. Elijah remarked that she did not recognize the names of any leaders of the communities on the list.

Ms. Shelley explained that each Commissioner had to name five people for the Centennial Committee. She said a lot of people have dropped out, due to the long-term nature of the project.

Chair Lewis commented that each Commissioner should know the people in his district.

Vice Chair Clark suggested putting a request in a Communications to the City Commission, to the effect that they would like to see a more diverse group and ask for a response.

Ms. Richards reminded the Board that all information on the Centennial Committee is also on the City’s website, in addition to their meetings which are open to the public, and everyone can view their activities, plans and progress there.

Vice Chair Clark recommended asking the City Commissioners to make sure the new people they appoint (to fill vacancies) are from diverse areas, with special preference for Fort Lauderdale natives. Ms. Richards added that on several occasions, the Mayor and Commissioners have expressed that this Centennial Celebration will reflect the diversity of Fort Lauderdale.

Motion by Mr. Foulkes to recommend to the City Commission that they fill the current vacancies on the Centennial Committee with as diverse a representation of this City as

possible, and as future vacancies occur, to make it a priority to draw from their diverse constituencies.

Chair Lewis thought it should include people with the knowledge of their communities. Vice Chair Clark suggested that some people on this Board might be appropriate to serve on the Committee, especially if they were born here. It was pointed out that anybody could go to a City Commissioner and ask to volunteer to be on the Committee.

Mr. Discepola, while acknowledging the importance of this topic, felt it might not be within the scope of this Board, and wondered if they were overstepping their bounds.

Mr. Levy agreed somewhat, but claimed that one of the points of education is understanding history. He thought it was very important in this community to remember the good, but also to remember the things that were not so good. By doing that, a stronger community results. The City Commission has an opportunity to correct this and deal with the diversity of the community.

Ms. Bell (Fort Lauderdale High) remarked that Mr. Levy raised an interesting point. She said she has been in Fort Lauderdale schools all her life, and the only time she can remember learning about Fort Lauderdale history was when she was in elementary school when they went to Stranahan House once and had a tour. They also looked at the mural on Broward and got a little description about that, but that was the extent of their history lesson. She stated that students in Fort Lauderdale know very little about its history, and she thought it would be interesting if they could learn more.

Ms. Machin (Fort Lauderdale High) said she would like the School Board to approach the school and teach the students about the City's history. She has been in the country for six years and knows American history, but does not know anything about Fort Lauderdale's history.

Ms. Elijah said that it is important for the children to know the history of diversity in Fort Lauderdale, and therefore she stated they are very concerned as members of the Education Advisory Board of Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Smith (Stranahan) said the only history she knows about Fort Lauderdale is what her grandmother told her about what it was like in the 1950's.

Ms. Machin mentioned that the majority of Fort Lauderdale High is African-American, and the minority is Hispanic and White. She felt they took pride in their diversity, but do not learn about it. They do not have a historical viewpoint. She felt the School Board should take actions toward that.

Chair Lewis said, rather than the School Board taking part, it should be the City officials.

Mr. Discepola was concerned what was within their power to recommend and suggested ensuring they incorporate the diverse history in the Celebration. Perhaps the Board could recommend that the City Commission set up all the guest speakers to go to the public schools in Fort Lauderdale. He thought that was within the scope of the Board's powers to recommend things, and would be more important than advising the City Commission on how to set up the Centennial Committee.

There was a short discussion on how they could have the guest speakers at the schools. Ms. Shelley reminded the Board that the Committee has the trunks of artifacts prepared, and these will be taken to all of the elementary schools in Fort Lauderdale. She said they are even making coloring books about the history for the younger children.

Chair Lewis was curious who was going to evaluate the materials prior to publication. Ms. Shelley responded that Ms. Dinnen is on that Committee, and Chair Lewis asked Ms. Shelley to invite her to the next meeting.

Ms. Blue-Small commented that the information needs to filter down to the schools so they know there is the Celebration going on. That way, students can get out and get information and attend activities. She remarked their curriculum was "packed full" and was skeptical about adding more to it.

Ms. Bell remarked that in 2011 after FCAT, the schools have special assemblies and perhaps they include recognition of the 100 years. Through that assembly, they could learn about the diversity and the growth of the City.

Ms. Machin stated that if the material cannot be fit into the curriculum for next year, it should be turned over to the student government. They are very organized and would be honored to take care of something like that after school. She said they have lots of after-school activities that are fun, but do not have anything the students can actually learn. She said that way it would not take time from the school's curriculum, but they would have the opportunity to learn about the history.

Vice Chair Clark mentioned that Becon TV probably has videos on the history of Fort Lauderdale. She thought those should be broadcast at this time, and also in the schools. She offered to follow up and see if Becon has a history video that has to do with diversity. If so, she can make copies for teachers and send alerts to the teachers about the airing of the programs.

Mr. Discepola said he would not want this to interfere with their substantive academic instruction, and wondered if a half-hour period over the course of two different days during lunch would be possible.

Chair Lewis announced that Mr. Foulkes will be leaving the meeting and since he has a motion on the floor, she asked the Board to return to that.

Mr. Levy suggested that if the history of Fort Lauderdale is not in the school's curriculum, then they have to change it. He said they need to go to the School Board now and tell them it has to be part of the curriculum and if they need to get the Broward County School System involved, they will.

Mr. Foulkes said he met with the Superintendent the prior day and gave him a copy of the letter. He urged the Superintendent to use whatever opportunities he has to promote the diversity. Mr. Foulkes also met with the District's Diversity and Cultural Outreach Director, and she is now thinking of how they can have these diversity discussions for the current generation.

Mr. Foulkes mentioned that the student population has not always been diverse. He thinks his uncle was the first Black at school in 1962. He added, however, that their schools are more segregated now than they were in 1954, when desegregation came into effect. He proposed that the Board's contribution to this Centennial project could be a history of the entire education experience in Fort Lauderdale over the last 100 years.

Mr. Foulkes continued that when he went to elementary school, his school (North Fork Elementary) was segregated, all Black, including all the teachers and administrators. Just across Broward, south of Broward, was the White community. All of those schools in that area were White. The District was not officially considered a unified district until 2000. He claimed they are now worse off in terms of segregation in schools. He explained that even though there are magnet programs in the urban Black communities, most of the students in the magnet programs come from predominantly White and Hispanic neighborhoods. Within schools there are segregation and sub-communities. He stated that is unacceptable.

B. Communications to City Commission

Mr. Foulkes' motion was re-read.

Mr. Levy advised the Board that a person has to fill out an application to be on a Committee, such as the Centennial Committee. He suggested that Board members talk to people who might want to be on the Committee.

Ms. Smith was excused at 8:04 p.m.

There was a discussion on what to include in the Communication. Mr. Foulkes wanted to add "long-time resident" to the motion. Mr. Discepola wanted to add language to the effect of when the purpose of the recommendation is to enrich the education of the community that is going to be exposed to the Centennial Celebration and also so that when they request speakers to come speak at the schools that diverse history is actually presented to them, rather than a skewed perception of how the community developed. He added that a purpose to their recommendation needs to be articulated.

Mr. Foulkes accepted Mr. Discepola's friendly amendment to include an explanation of the importance of educating both the youth in the schools and also many of their teachers. The purpose is to expand the education of residents of Fort Lauderdale about the complete history of Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Foulkes' motion was restated to read as follows:

Motion by Mr. Foulkes, seconded by Ms. Elijah, to recommend to the City Commission to fill the current vacancies on the Centennial Committee with as diverse a representation of this City as possible in order to expand the education of residents of Fort Lauderdale about the complete history of Fort Lauderdale, and as further vacancies arise, to make it a priority to draw from their diverse constituencies so that complete history could be presented to students in all schools within the City of Fort Lauderdale. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Clark mentioned that she has six copies of a book in her library on the history of Fort Lauderdale. She has other books in her library also relating to the City's history.

Mr. Foulkes urged the Board members to read "My Soul is a Witness," by Deborah Work. It tells the history of Blacks in Fort Lauderdale. Vice Chair Clark suggested that Superintendent Notter authorize the purchase of this book for the school libraries.

D. Old/Ongoing Business (taken out of order)

1. School Adoptions: Lauderdale Manors, Sunland Park, Arthur Ashe

Ms. Elijah had nothing to report on Lauderdale Manors.

C. Current Business

2. Student Members to the Advisory Board

Ms. Richards announced that since Mr. Foulkes is departing the meeting, she wondered if the Board is going to address Item C-2, Student Members to the Education Advisory Board. She reported she just received two new applications, and two others were submitted on the prior Tuesday. The letter from the Principal was not yet received. She also received an application earlier in the meeting from the student who left. Chair Lewis asked if they could address this item at the next meeting, and Ms. Richards suggested that the Board could agree to have the students continue to attend the meetings, until a formal decision was made. Chair Lewis concurred.

Motion by Ms. Elijah, seconded by Mr. Discepola, to keep all the students they have, all the students who applied for the Education Advisory Board. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Richards proposed continuing to include them on the meeting notices. She reminded the Board that their formal new year actually starts in April, so that gives them a few months to decide on the new applications.

Ms. Bell reported that she spoke to Dr. Wright and she should be sending in the letter very shortly. The principal had apologized for her lateness in doing so.

Ms. Richards said that in the meantime, she will make copies and send the additional applications that come in to the Board members.

Chair Lewis then returned to the Old Business.

D. Old/Ongoing Business (taken out of order)

1. School Adoptions: Lauderdale Manors, Sunland Park, Arthur Ashe

Chair Lewis said there were no reports for Sunland Park nor Arthur Ashe.

2. Other Reports/Updates/Discussion

a. Reports & Updates

1) City Staff Liaison – Julie Richards

Ms. Richards asked the Board if they wished to keep their breaks for next year in July and December. By consensus, the Board agreed.

Secondly, she commented that Ms. Deaner had resigned due to health concerns. She also mentioned Dr. Persi sent a card on behalf of the Board to Ms. Deaner, who had sent her thanks. Ms. Deaner appreciated the card, and Ms. Richards wanted to thank Dr. Persi for initiating the gesture on the Board's behalf.

Ms. Richards reminded the Board to check out the City's website for updated information on events and happenings in and around the City, and to track the Centennial Celebrations. She also reminded the Board to log in their volunteer hours. They can contact Maxine Singh at the City Commission office, and she gave the Board the phone number, (954) 828-5005. Ms. Singh can input and update their volunteer hours for the Mayor's Volunteer Challenge.

Ms. Elijah wondered if being president of an HOA would count for volunteer hours, and Ms. Richards said to contact Ms. Singh, who will be happy to advise further and provide additional information.

2) Student Members to EAB (already addressed)

3) Broward County School District – C. Webster (absent)

4) Council of Ft. Laud Civic Associations – B. Shelley

Ms. Shelley reported that the Council had the Centennial presentation and viewed a short video, which was very good. There are three versions - short, medium and long. These can be shown at organizations.

She also mentioned that the Council is going to have a photo contest called "Fort Lauderdale Today." There is more information forthcoming.

The Council will be having their Christmas Party on December 14, a potluck dinner upstairs on the 8th floor. She said all neighborhoods are invited. The Council provides ham, turkey and beverages and paper goods.

The Council is looking for representatives from all districts to be on the Council, and she invited all Board members to attend a meeting to see what it is like.

Chair Lewis added that the Council meetings are very interesting, and she encouraged Board members to attend to find out what is going on in the various neighborhoods.

F. Next Meeting and Closing

Chair Lewis reminded the Board that this is their last meeting of the year. The next meeting will be on January 20, 2011.

Hearing no further business, Chair Lewis adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by J. Rubin, Prototype, Inc.]