



**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES FROM SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
April 29, 2011**

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wayne Cook
Dr. Chiquita Eugene, Chair
Joi Harden

Daryl Horton
Nelson Linder, Co-Chair
Greg Smith

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Jason Alexander
Melodye Foust
Mike Hockmuller

Dusty McCormick
ACM Michael McDonald

CALL TO ORDER—9:00 A.M.

The meeting was called to order at 9:15am by Commissioner Linder

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

There were no speakers.

2. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Discuss previous goals and work plan

With the aid of a facilitator, Mike Hockmuller, the Commissioners looked at their previous goals and work plan from early 2009. They determined that most of those goals had been met and that some were still ongoing.

The Commissioners determined that their Mission Statement should be changed to better reflect the work of the original African American Quality of Life Initiative teams.

b. Discuss Commission accomplishments and outcomes from previous work plan

The Commissioners noted the following accomplishments:

- Received a variety of presentations from City staff and citizens
- Made a presentation to the City Council on Dec 9, 2010 on Commission accomplishments and unmet needs of the community
- Collaborated with the Neighborhood Housing & Community Development Dept (NHCD) staff on a report of progress on initiatives from the African American Quality of Life Initiative
- Approved a letter in support of a community initiative to support the creation of a Community Youth Court
- Passed resolutions in support of the African American Cultural & Heritage Center, also receiving monthly update reports on the facility from NHCD staff

- Passed a resolution in support of the creation and funding by City Council of an African American Youth Resource Center
- Participated in the selection of an artist for the African American Cultural & Heritage Center Art in Public Places project
- Pushed for transparency in Austin Police Dept activities resulting in the use of vehicle-mounted cameras and a pilot program for body-mounted cameras

3. NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and possible action on the following:

a. Determine goals for the Commission for 2011-12

The Commissioners would like to work on the following:

- Development of tangible outcomes related to the establishment of a Bidwell Institute in Austin
- Development of strategies to assist non-profits in applying for funding and technical assistance from the City
- Develop tools to assist small businesses overcome barriers
- Explore and enhance vocational opportunities
- Address transportation issues related to access to job centers and employment—bus lines/transfers, bike lanes, urban rail, parking
- Address traffic issues associated with the Texas Relays and other large events by developing a communication plan which would include KAZI
- Support child obesity initiatives—including a presentation from Shannon Jones for an update on Health Dept initiatives with this focus

b. Determine a work plan in support of the Commission's goals for 2011-12

The Commission postponed this item until their July meeting in order to include information from presentations scheduled for their May and June meetings.

c. Set agenda items for future meetings, including non-substantive housekeeping matters (such as meeting dates, potential topics, and information and research requests for staff)

Future topics and speakers should include an update from the Capital City African American Chamber of Commerce on how they plan to operate the visitor's bureau at the new African American Cultural and Heritage Center, a presentation from the Austin Convention and Visitor's Bureau on how they market African American events and businesses, a follow-up progress report from Steve Swanson and/or Judge John Vasquez on the creation of the Community Youth Court, and a presentation on programs for job skills and placement of ex-offenders.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.