



**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wayne Cook
Dr. Chiquita Eugene, Chair
Joi Harden

Daryl Horton
Nelson Linder, Co-Chair
Greg Smith

CITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jason Alexander
Maria Allen
Joe Barnes
Vince Cobalis
Melodye Foust
Stephanie Hayden

Ron Hubbard
Dusty McCormick
Mark Nathan
Ryan Robinson
Jeffrey Travillion

CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45pm by Commissioner Eugene.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Ms. LaTonya Pegues addressed the Commission concerning construction on East 7th Street. Her concern is that the construction on the east side of the street seemed to be unfinished prior to the construction starting on the west side of the street.

Mr. Adrian Neely addressed the Commission concerning amendments to the Minority Owned Business & Women Owned Business ordinance and budget cuts to the Department of Small and Minority Business Enterprises that he felt would adversely affect the minority contractors' associations.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 29, 2011 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING AND THE MAY 4, 2011 REGULAR MEETING.

The minutes stand as presented.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Reports from Commissioners on attending other Boards' and Commissions' meetings

There were no reports.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Programs for African American students in Austin Independent School District (Dr. Meria J. Carstarphen, Superintendent, Austin Independent School District)

Dr. Carstarphen stated that over the past four years there has been some improvement in the scores of African American students at AISD, stating that the most drastic drop in scores seems to occur in "transition" years, when a student moves from elementary to middle school, or from middle school to high school. AISD is looking at ways to mitigate these issues. AISD is also looking at trying to create more scholarship programs for eastside schools (which typically do not have as many scholarship programs as the schools on the west side), creating literacy programs for parents, infrastructure improvements, and expansion of dual-language programs.

b. Briefing on the Mayor's proposal for Single Member Districts (Mark Nathan, Mayor's Chief of Staff)

Mark Nathan presented information on the proposal for single member districts stating that the current proposal would include some at-large seats as well as the district seats, creating two additional seats on the City Council.

c. Presentation of 2010 U. S. Census data (Ryan Robinson, City Demographer, Planning and Development Review Department)

Without objection this presentation was postponed due to technical difficulties.

d. Discussion and possible action on one time funding for at risk youth programs per City Council Resolution #20110526-075 approved at their meeting on May 26, 2011 (Vince Cobalis, Assistant Director, Health and Human Services Dept)

A motion to support the following programs for the one-time funding allocated by Council Resolution 20110526-075 was made by Commissioner Smith; seconded by Commissioner Linder. Vote 6-0. The programs include: African American youth involved with the criminal justice system; employment and youth development, including job training, for African American youth for two organizations that have not received prior funding; and child care quality (improving the quality of existing child care centers).

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

The agenda for July will include a discussion and possible action on a work plan to support Commission goals. Ryan Robinson will return for his presentation at the July or August meeting depending on his schedule.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.