



**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, August 3, 2011**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Chiquita Eugene, Chair  
Daryl Horton

Nelson Linder, Co-Chair  
Greg Smith

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Melodye Foust  
Dusty McCormick

Ryan Robinson

**CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.**

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

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Patricia Smith, owner and Jean Chase, Pre-Kindergarten teacher with Little Dudes Learning Center spoke about their facility and having served the minority children of Southeast Austin for many years. They both stated that it is beneficial to address at risk youth at a very young age rather than waiting until they are older. The chance for change is much greater at a young age. Both also spoke about the need for funding opportunities with state funding being cut dramatically in the next 2-year budget cycle.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 6, 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. Presentation of 2010 U. S. Census data (Ryan Robinson, City Demographer, Planning and Development Review Department)**

Ryan Robinson made a presentation on the 2010 U. S. Census data showing the drastic changes in population in the Austin Metropolitan area which includes Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, and Hays Counties. The tract-level data showed the changes in minority populations in various areas of the city and the rapid growth of populations outside the city limits. Austin is currently the 14<sup>th</sup> largest city in the country and the 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest-growing mid-sized city.

- b. **Consider and take possible action on a work plan in support of the Commission's goals for 2011-12**

A motion to approve the work plan in support of the Commission's goals for 2011-12 which prioritizes the Commission's goals as follows: (1) establishment of a Bidwell Institute in Austin; (2) development of tools to assist small businesses; (3) development of strategies to assist non-profits; (4) explore and enhance vocational opportunities; and (5) address transportation and traffic issues related to access to job centers and employment was made by Commissioner Smith; seconded by Commissioner Linder. Vote 4-0 with Commissioner Cook absent.

Commissioners Eugene, Smith and Linder will form a working group to create a possible resolution addressing African American business growth.

- 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)**

The Commissioners would like a presentation in September from the Austin Convention and Visitor's Bureau on how they market Austin's African American businesses and events. In October the Commissioners would like a presentation from the Capital City African American Chamber of Commerce on their plans for operation of the Visitor's Center at the African American Cultural and Heritage Center when it opens in 2012.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.