



**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
May 2, 2012**

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sherry Cherry
Wayne Cook
Clifford Gillard

Nelson Linder, Co-Chair
Greg Smith

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Barnes
Regina Copic
Melodye Foust
Rebecca Giello
Sandra Harkins
Rebecca Kennedy

Dusty McCormick
Michael McDonald
Lauraine Rizer
Betsy Spencer
Jim Williams
Cora Wright

CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm by Commissioner Linder.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Mr. Willis Hunt addressed the Commission to follow up on Mr. Gene Mays comments from the March meeting. Mr. Hunt stated that there need to be incentives to assist the African American businesses on E. 12th Street.

Mr. Adrian Neely spoke in support of African American businesses on E. 12th Street. Mr. Neely also stated that the African American Cultural Heritage District Steering Committee has presented their report.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 4, 2012 REGULAR MEETING.

The minutes stand as presented.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Presentation on the services and/or programs to be offered at the African American Cultural & Heritage Facility (Dusty McCormick, Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office)**

Deputy City Manager Michael McDonald provided some information on the history of the creation of the facility. Mr. Dusty McCormick provided information on the current status of the project. Mr. Michael Bryant, Board President of ProArts Collective, discussed their current programs and ProArts' proposed use of the space they will occupy which will include a multi-purpose practice space. Ms. Natalie Cofield, President of the Capital City African American Chamber of Commerce, spoke about their mission and the relocation of their offices to the facility. The Chamber will also operate the Visitor's Center, which will be housed at the facility. Lauraine Rizer, COA Real Estate, stated that each entity's lease shall be an initial five-year lease with additional extension options. Mr. McDonald stated that the leases would be set up so that it would be clear that these entities should remain in the facility well beyond the initial lease term.

- b. Report from Working Group concerning information request to Austin Convention and Visitor's Bureau**

Without objection this item was postponed until the June meeting.

- c. Reports from Commissioners on attending meetings of other City Boards and Commissions**

There were no reports.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Presentation on E. 12th Street Development Project, Sean Garretson, Pegasus Planning and Chestnut Neighborhood Revitalization Corp.**

Mr. Sean Garretson presented the development plan for lots on E. 12th Street near Chicon. The current plan calls for residential space above commercial and/or retail spaces. There would also be space set aside for the offices and exhibit space for the African American Cultural Heritage District. The project also calls for the rebuilding of a theatre to replace the Harlem Theatre which burned down in the 1970's.

- b. 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 the postponed Working Group report on the information request to ACVB, a presentation on the debt service for the \$8,000,000 HUD grant to EGRSO, and a presentation on the services and programs of the Small Business Development Program on the agenda for June. For the July meeting the Commissioners would like a follow up presentation from Rev. Joseph Collins on health care and a presentation from Mr. Struan on his method of teaching.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.