



**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2013**

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nelson Linder, Chair
Sherry Cherry
Dr. Chiquita Eugene

Clifford Gillard
Daryl Horton
Greg Smith, Vice Chair

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheila Balog
Melodye Foust
Jannette Goodall
Michael McDonald

Dusty McCormick
Myrna Rios
Sabine Romero

CALL TO ORDER—5:30pm

The meeting was called to order at 5:50pm by Commissioner Linder.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

There were no speakers.

2. History of African American Quality of Life Initiative and African American Resource Advisory Commission (Deputy City Manager Michael McDonald and Nelson Linder, Commission Chair)

DCM Michael McDonald and Commissioner Nelson Linder provided a background on why the City of Austin initiated the Quality of Life study, its findings, and the work of the committees on the issues identified by the Community. The Commission was formed to continue the work of the committees.

3. Role of Commission in City Government Structure

a. How to work effectively

Jannette Goodall, Acting City Clerk, talked to the Commissioners about their role in City government, the Open Meetings Act, and ways to provide information to the City Council.

b. Ethics

Sabine Romero, Law Department, presented information on the City's policy on ethics as they affect boards and commissions.

4. Discuss Commission accomplishments and outcomes from previous work plan

Through a facilitated discussion, the Commission identified the following accomplishments for 2012:

- Continued and fostered the relationship with the African American Men & Boys Harvest Foundation including fostering their relationship with the City's HHSD, Travis County, and the AISD Mentoring Program

- Worked with the community to provide photographs of 88 African Americans for the Art in Public Places mural at the new African American Cultural & Heritage Facility
- Supported the economic development agreement between the COA and US Farathane-bringing in life/job skills for underemployed and former offenders
- Started the education process on mental health issues in the African American community
- Continued/fostered the relationship with EGRSO's Small Business Development Program
- Continued dialogue with the Austin Convention & Visitor's Bureau
- Progress made on marketing opportunities through ACVB
- APD now has mental health training for all officers and teams are dispatched on all calls involving mental health issues
- African American performers included in Austin Fan Fest during F1 weekend

5. Determine Goals for 2013

Through a facilitated discussion the Commission identified several areas of focus they are interested in pursuing. At the February meeting they will identify the priorities for 2013.

6. Determine a Work Plan to support the 2013 Goals

Without objection this item was postponed until the February 6, 2013 meeting.

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

For the February meeting there will be an update from the Work Group on Health and Mental Health issues and the goals and work plan for 2013.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.