



**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**February 6, 2013**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Nelson Linder, Chair  
Sherry Cherry  
Wayne Cook  
Dr. Chiquita Eugene

Clifford Gillard  
Daryl Horton  
Greg Smith, Vice Chair

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jason Alexander  
Sheila Balog  
Roxanne Evans

Melodye Foust  
Dusty McCormick

**THERE MAY BE DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by Commissioner Linder.

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Ms. Eileen Schrandt spoke about concerning a program called Choice Neighborhoods and would like to make a presentation at the Commission's next meeting.

Ms. Rehema Watson introduced herself to the Commissioners. She is new to Austin from the New York/New Jersey area, has a history of community involvement, and has an interest in getting youth more involved with the Commission.

**2. Approval of the minutes from the December 5, 2012 Regular Meeting and the January 9, 2013 Regular Meeting**

The minutes stand as presented.

**3. Update from the Working Group on Health and Mental Health Issues (Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Cherry)**

The Working Group has met with Shannon Jones, COA-HHSD; Stephanie Hayden, COA-HHSD; and Louise Lynch, Travis County Integral Care. The Working Group will make a presentation at the March meeting.

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

There were no reports.

**5. Finalize Goals for 2013**

The following goals were identified by the Commission for 2013:

- Identify and strengthen tools to engage the African American community about the issues facing the African American community.

- Encourage and support the identification and availability of capital resources for small African American businesses by learning what is available in the community, and identifying where gaps exist.
- Identify strategies to educate and inform the African American community with regard to mental health resources.

#### **6. Determine a Work Plan to support the 2013 Goals**

The following work plan was identified to support the goals identified for 2013:

- For Goal #1—Explore the possibility of a Public Service Announcement and partner with existing community resources. Commissioner Horton will take the lead on this item.
- For Goal #2—Identify community partners, partner with EGRSO to identify any possible resources, facilitate conversations between groups, support an opportunity to bring both groups (resources and customers) together, measure results by recording the number of new business relationships result from the meetings. Commissioner Gillard will take the lead on this effort.
- For Goal #3—Identify a resource or vehicle to teach the community about the problem, identify existing services in place and partner with other entities to meet the need, identify those areas in which the needs are greatest, and identify (through community contacts) relationships that might aid the City in providing services. Commissioner Cherry will take the lead on this effort.

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

For the March meeting the Commissioners will hear a report from the Working Group on Mental Health Issues, a presentation on Choice Neighborhoods from Eileen Schrandt, and would like to receive a presentation on parking on E. 11<sup>th</sup> & E. 12<sup>th</sup> Streets.

For the April meeting the Commissioners would like to have a presentation on the services of the Capital City African American Chamber of Commerce and would like to receive information on the tenants for the new African American Cultural & Heritage Facility.

#### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.