



**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 5, 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:

Joe Barnes
Carrie Brown

Melodye Foust
Michael McDonald

CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.

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

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Mr. Phil Burns spoke on issues related to the renovation of Bartholomew Pool.

Mr. Samir Sheth spoke on issues related to Keep Austin Affordable.

Mr. Asim Shareet spoke about an event at the Carver Museum on Saturday, June 8 on entrepreneurship.

Mr. Clifford Gifford spoke about frustration related to the lack of progress by the Commission.

2. Approval of the minutes from the May 1, 2013 Regular Meeting

A motion to adopt the minutes as to form from the May 1, 2013 African American Resource Advisory Commission regular meeting was made by Commissioner Smith; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Vote 7-0.

3. Updates from Working Groups

a. Health and Mental Health

Commissioner Smith stated that the Working Group should be able to bring forward a recommendation to the full Commission at the July meeting.

b. Small Business/Parking Issues on E. 11th & E. 12th Streets

Commissioner Smith reported that a meeting with the Austin Transportation Department and several stakeholders had taken place, but a second meeting that was supposed to be scheduled with other departments had not yet been scheduled.

4. Presentation: Transportation in Northeast Austin (Roberto Gonzalez, Planning Division, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority)

Mr. Roberto Gonzalez from Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (CMTA) made a presentation on the current services offered in the northeast section of Austin. Mr. Gonzalez stated that CMTA has made several changes recently to the routes in the area to improve connectivity to shopping and medical facilities. CMTA will be implementing Rapid Bus Service soon and is also a partner in Project Connect which looks to connect areas from Georgetown to San Antonio via local transportation networks.

5. Discussion and Action: Recommendation on additional funding for new and expanded programming for the African American Youth Harvest Foundation

Mr. Michael Lofton and Mr. Karl Nichols with the African American Youth Harvest Foundation presented information to the Commission showing their accomplishments over the last two fiscal years. The foundation has consistently performed beyond the requirements of their social service contracts with the City of Austin and Travis County, providing services to youth and families through the Youth Resource Center and the Men and Boys Conferences.

A motion to approve a Recommendation to Council for additional funding in the amount of \$256,430 per year over the next five (5) years, bringing total funding per year to \$418,430 annually, was made by Commissioner Smith; seconded by Commissioner Cook. A friendly amendment to insert current demographic information into the Recommendation prior to submission to the City Council was made by Commissioner Eugene and accepted by Commissioner Smith. Vote 7-0.

6. Discussion and Possible Action: Completion of photo selection for mural at the African American Cultural & Heritage Center

A motion to create an additional project to honor Heroes of the Community was made by Commissioner Eugene; seconded by Commission Gillard. Vote 3-3-0 with Commissioner Horton abstaining.

Deputy City Manager McDonald will work with Art in Public Places staff to find out from the artist what options exist for adding additional photographs to the existing mural or other ways to honor individuals who have had a lasting impact on the community but were not included in the original 89 photographs installed.

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)

The July agenda will include the presentation on the renovations to Bartholomew Pool by the Parks & Recreation Department, a presentation on a vision for renovations to Interstate 35 downtown, and a discussion on how to work effectively as a City Commission member. The August agenda will include a presentation on the Rosewood Court Master Plan and the Colony Park Master Plan.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:000pm.