



**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 11, 2013**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Nelson Linder, Chair  
Sherry Cherry  
Wayne Cook

Clifford Gillard  
Daryl Horton  
Dr. Chiquita Eugene

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Melodye Foust  
Dusty McCormick

Shannon Jones

**CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.**

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

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Ms. Lisa Byrd addressed the Commission concerning the African American Cultural Heritage District thanking the Commission for supporting funding for the AACHD. Ms. Byrd stated that a non-profit and a governing board have been formed.

Mr. Gene Mays addressed the Commission about African American businesses in the 11<sup>th</sup> Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Street Corridors stating that there is a state of emergency for these business owners. Mr. Mays will be proposing a program to the City Council to aid these business owners.

**2. Approval of the minutes from the July 10, 2013 Regular Meeting**

The minutes stand as presented.

**3. Updates from Working Groups**

**a. Small Business/Parking Issues on E. 11<sup>th</sup> & E. 12<sup>th</sup> Streets**

The Working Group had nothing to report.

**b. Photograph Selection for Mural**

The Working Group had nothing to report.

**c. Health and Mental Health**

Commissioner Cherry stated that the public service announcement was complete and that a DVD and a booklet are now available.

**4. Discussion and Action: Commission Recommendation for Additional Funding in the Health & Human Services Department FY 2013-14 Budget for Health and Mental Health Issues in the African American Community (Health and Mental Health Working Group)**

Without objection this item was postponed.

5. **Presentation: Building on Success-A New Standard for Affordable Housing in Austin (Mandy DeMayo, Housing Works; Carl Walz, Field Coordinator, Keep Austin Affordable; Samir Sheth, Field Organizer, Keep Austin Affordable)**

Mr. Carl Walz with Keep Austin Affordable and Ms. Mandy DeMayo with Housing Works presented information in support of the affordable housing bond election that will be held in November. Mr. Walz and Ms. DeMayo stated that the need for affordable housing is great, especially with the occupancy rate as high as 98% in some categories of rental properties.

6. **Presentation and Discussion: Public Safety Issues regarding citizen interaction with Austin Police Department (Sam Holt, Public Safety Commission)**

Mr. Sam Holt spoke to the Commissioners concerning his time as an Austin Police Officer and his time with on the African American Quality of Life Initiative Public Safety Committee. Mr. Holt retired from the police force and offered some suggestions for interacting with police officers such as attending Commander's Forums and just getting to know the officers patrolling your neighborhood.

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 Commissioners would like to have three Recommendations to Council on the agenda for October that will relate to affordable housing, health/mental health, and preservation of the African American Cultural Heritage District and the African American Quality of Life Initiative. The Commissioners would also like an action item to create a Working Group on Public Safety.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.