



AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

November 6, 2013

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Smith, Chair
Sherry Cherry
Wayne Cook

Clifford Gillard
Daryl Horton, Vice Chair
Nelson Linder

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Roxanne Evans

Melodye Foust

CALL TO ORDER

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

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Mr. Richard Carson addressed the Commission concerning an event that his production company, Cosmic Intuition Productions, is organizing for March 22-23, 2014.

Mr. Harold McMillan addressed the Commission concerning spurring economic development in the African American Cultural Heritage District by investing in events that create cultural tourism.

2. Approval of the minutes from the October 2, 2013 Regular Meeting

The minutes stand as presented.

3. Updates from Working Groups

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

Commissioner Smith stated that he was trying to obtain the results of a parking study from the Austin Transportation Department.

b. Photograph Selection for Mural

Without objection this item was postponed.

c. Health and Mental Health

The members of the Working Group are currently meeting with City Council Members.

d. Public Safety

Commissioner Cook presented a list of goals and action steps for the Working Group.

4. Presentation: Current and proposed activities of the African American Cultural Heritage District (Lisa Byrd, Staff; Harold McMillan, Director, Board of Directors; and Adrian Neely, Chair, Board of Directors—African American Cultural Heritage District)

Ms. Lisa Byrd and Mr. Adrian Neely spoke on behalf of the African American Cultural Heritage District stating that they appreciated the support of the Commission. The AACHD is currently receiving funding support from the City of Austin and Ms. Byrd and Mr. Neely stressed the importance of continuing that support as well as the need for a cultural performance venue in the district that would be open later than 9:00pm.

5. Discussion and Action: Commission Recommendation for the City Council to provide financial support for :

- a. Designation of key city-owned vacant properties specifically along the all-crucial 11th & 12th Street corridors as “African American Cultural Heritage District-critical”;**
- b. Initiation of a moratorium in which the sale of any City-owned properties within the African American Cultural Heritage District “critical zone” require first a review of the proposed purchase by the African American Resource Advisory Commission to determine if the intended use of the property aligns with its location and significance within the African American Cultural Heritage District;**
- c. Offer financial incentives and technical support to the few remaining African American businesses and venues within the African American Cultural Heritage District so that there is real accountability to the City’s promise/mission to meet the needs set forth in the African American Quality of Life Initiative; and**
- d. Identify viable ways to attract, nurture and maintain local African American businesses within the African American Cultural Heritage District**

Without objection this item was postponed until a Special Called Meeting on November 18, 2013.

6. Discussion and Action: Approval of Commission meeting dates for 2014

A motion to approve the proposed Commission meeting dates for 2014 was made by Commissioner Gillard; seconded by Commissioner Horton. Vote 6-0 with Commissioner Eugene absent.

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 December meeting the Commissioners would like a presentation on urban farms, a presentation on HIV/AIDS from the Health & Human Services Department, a presentation on the strategy for implementation of the recently approved \$65million in Affordable Housing bonds passed by City voters, and a presentation on programs targeted at the African American Cultural Heritage District from the Capital City African American Chamber of Commerce.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.