



**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2014**

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Smith, Chair
Wayne Cook
Dr. Chiquita Eugene

Clifford Gillard
Daryl Horton, Vice Chair
Nelson Linder

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Barnes
Roxanne Evans

Melodye Foust

CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.

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

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Ms. Nadia Barrera addressed the Commission concerning the Bike Share program that is being installed around town. Ms. Barrera stated that they are trying to get all the stations in place prior to SXSW. There is a possibility of installation along E. 11th Street or E. 12th Street. The Commissioners suggested that Ms. Barrera work with business-owners along the two streets as well as the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce to identify an appropriate location.

2. Approval of the minutes from the December 5, 2013 and January 8, 2014 Regular Meetings

The minutes stand as presented.

3. Updates from Working Groups

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

Commissioner Smith reported that the Working Group has been meeting with staff from the Austin Transportation Department. A parking study has been completed and ATD staff are now working on an analysis of the data from the study.

b. Photograph Selection for Mural

Commissioner Eugene reported that photographs for the additional tiles have been received and she is waiting to hear back from the artist about the transfer process. Some photographs do not transfer properly to the tiles and Commissioner Eugene stated that they have alternates available if needed.

c. Health and Mental Health

Without objection this item was postponed.

d. Public Safety

Commissioner Cook reported that the Working Group has met with the Police Monitor, Margot Frasier. The Working Group has formulated some goals which will include arranging for ridealongs with APD, visiting with the staff at the Austin Police Academy on training procedures, and arranging a meeting with the Police Chief and/or the City Manager

4. Discussion and Presentation on the economics of East 12th Street as it relates to African American businesses and parking (Gene Mays, East 12th Street Business Owner)

Mr. Gene Mays presented information on the economics of East Austin, specifically along the E. 11th Street and E. 12th Street Corridors. Mr. Mays stated that the City of Austin has not marketed the area properly and that venues and musicians from the area are not able to participate in large events such as SXSW or the Austin City Limits Music Festival due to economic reasons.

5. Discussion of a resolution recently approved by the Human Rights Commission in support of the African American Quality of Life Initiative (Jonathan Luu, Vice Chair, Human Rights Commission)

Members of the City of Austin Human Rights Commission Paul Rhea, Chair and Jonathan Luu, Vice Chair addressed the Commissioners concerning a recommendation recently approved by the Human Rights Commission that addresses African American Quality of Life. The recommendation states that despite efforts by the City to address African American Quality of Life there are still many disparities that continue to exist in the community and asks the City Council to identify these disparities and provide funding to address them. The recommendation also calls for the two Commissions to work together with the City Manager and City Council to address these disparities.

6. Approve the Commission's Goals and Work Plan for 2014

A motion to approve the Commission's Goals and Work Plan for 2014 was made by Commissioner Linder; seconded by Commissioner Eugene. Vote 6-0 with Commissioner Cherry absent.

7. Approve the Commission's Annual Report for 2013 to City Council

A motion to approve the Commission's Annual Report to the City Council for 2013 was made by Commissioner Cook; seconded by Commissioner Horton. Vote 6-0 with Commissioner Cherry absent.

8. 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 March agenda will include a presentation from Mark Terry who is the superintendent of a new charter school and a recommendation to support the recommendation from the Human Rights Commission.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.