



AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

April 2, 2014

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Smith, Chair
Wayne Cook
Dr. Chiquita Eugene

Clifford Gillard
Daryl Horton, Vice Chair
Nelson Linder

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Colligan
Melodye Foust
Rodney Gonzales
Synovia Holt Rabb

Kevin Johns
Dusty McCormick
Joy Miller
Xavier Zarate

CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.

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

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Ms. Janiece Walker addressed the Commission concerning a request for African American citizens to take part in a study that she and another University of Texas student are conducting in support of their doctoral dissertations.

Mr. Llyas Salahuddin addressed the Commission concerning the Austin CAN Academy of which he is the Development Director, stating that they are working with AISD dropouts to obtain their high school diplomas.

2. Approval of the minutes from the March 5, 2014 Regular Meeting

The minutes stand as presented.

3. Presentation: 2013 Annual Report of the Economic Development Department (Kevin Johns, Director, Economic Development Department)

Mr. Kevin Johns, Director of the Economic Development Department (EDD), presented the department's annual report to the Commission stating that there has been an increase in poverty in the City of Austin and that one of the department's goals is to bring in jobs for the hard to employ and underemployed. Mr. Johns stated that the City is doing well overall, but some segments of the community are not benefitting from the successful economy. EDD will use cultural diversity to attract international business and will also work to bring in warehouse distribution centers to the area near the airport which will provide jobs for workers without advanced degrees.

4. Introduction: New Global Business Retention and Expansion Division Manager, David Colligan

Mr. David Colligan introduced himself to the Commission.

5. Presentation: Family Business Loan Program (Xavier Zarate, Small Business Development Program, Economic Development Department)

Mr. Xavier Zarate presented some of the details of the Family Business Loan Program which is funded through a Section 108 Grant from US Housing & Urban Development. The loans provide working capital and site improvements for qualified business owners.

6. Presentation: Overview of new Austin Charter School (Mark Terry, Superintendent)

Without objection this item was postponed.

7. Updates from Working Groups

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

The group is trying to set up follow-up meeting with Gordon Derr in Austin Transportation Department.

b. Photograph Selection for Mural

The photographs for the additional inductees have been submitted to the artist for production of the tiles to be installed in June.

c. Health and Mental Health

Commissioner Smith will be part of the interview panel for the new Program Manager for African American Quality of Life Initiatives for the Health & Human Services Department.

d. Public Safety

The group has spoken with Police Training Academy personnel about techniques used for sensitivity training, use of force, profiling, psychological screening, etc. Representatives of the Training Academy will speak at the April 30, 2014 Special Called Meeting.

e. AAQL/Human Rights Commission

The group met last week regarding the requested \$15 million and came to a decision to spread the money equally among the six areas of focus represented by the original African American Quality of Life Teams.

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 April 30th Special Called Meeting agenda will include a presentation from the Police Academy Training personnel, a recommendation on allocation of the \$15 million recommended by the Human Rights Commission, and a discussion of future annual events celebrating individuals from the community.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.