

AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION SPECIAL CALLED COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES April 30, 2014

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Smith, Chair

Clifford Gillard

Sherry Cherry

Daryl Horton, Vice Chair

Wayne Cook

Nelson Linder

Dr. Chiquita Eugene

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Barnes Roxanne Evans Melodye Foust Shannon Jones Pamela Larsen

CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:37pm by Commissioner Smith.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Ms. Pamela Larsen, Planning & Development Review Department, informed the Commissioners about an event being held on May 7th & 8th at the Street-Jones Building on affordable housing.

Mr. Gene Mays spoke about inadequate representation of East Austin on the City Council and a need for the City to invest in infrastructure in East Austin.

Ms. Sharita Ambrose spoke to the Commissioners concerning the Texas Black Women's Initiative which provides information on how HIV/AIDS affects the population of women in the African American community.

2. Discussion and Possible Action: Selection of a date for the unveiling of Phase 2 of the Art in Public Places Project at the African American Cultural & Heritage Facility

Monday, June 9, 2014 was selected as the date for the ceremony for the unveiling of the Phase 2 photographic tiles.

3. Discussion and Possible Action: Annual selection and placement process for honoring community individuals and the number of portraits per year to be installed at the Art in Public Places Project at the African American Cultural & Heritage Facility

Late January or early February was chosen as the time when the annual ceremony will be held.

4. Discussion and Possible Action: Recommendation to the City Council on funding to alleviate inequities in the African American Community

A motion to postpone this item to the June 4, 2014 meeting failed on a vote of 2-3.

A motion to approve the recommendation on the allocation of funding to alleviate the inequities in the African American Community was made by Commissioner Smith; seconded by Commissioner Linder. Vote 4-2-1 with Commissioner Eugene off the dais.

5. Presentation: Police Academy Training Curriculum (Lt. Joseph Michalewicz, Austin Police Department Training Academy)

Lt. Joseph Michalewicz of the Austin Police Department Training Academy presented elements of the curriculum used to instruct cadets. Lt. Michalelewicz stated that there are many components to the training including cultural sensitivity, community policing, profiling, vehicular and foot pursuit, and use of deadly force.

6. Updates from Working Groups

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

The group stated that Gordon Derr in Austin Transportation has been unresponsive to requests for a follow-up meeting. This will be pursued through DCM McDonald's office.

b. Photograph Selection for Mural

There is nothing additional to report at this time.

c. Health and Mental Health

There is nothing to report at this time.

d. Public Safety

There is nothing additional to report at this time.

e. AAQL/Human Rights Commission

There is nothing additional to report at this time.

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 June meeting Commissioner Linder would like copies for all the Commissioners of the last five years' annual reports to the City Council. For the June agenda, there will be a discussion of continuation of a partnership with SXSW, Inc.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.