



**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 4, 2014**

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Smith, Chair
Sherry Cherry
Wayne Cook
Dr. Chiquita Eugene

Clifford Gillard
Daryl Horton, Vice Chair
Nelson Linder

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melodye Foust
Stephanie Hayden
Shannon Jones

Dusty McCormick
Adrienne Sturup

CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Commissioner Smith.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Mr. Adrian Neely spoke to the Commissioners concerning the African American Cultural & Heritage Facility stating that the Board has received their non-profit designation and thanking the Commission for their support.

Mr. Richard Franklin spoke to the Commission about a recommendation from the Austin Human Rights Commission concerning funding to alleviate inequities in the African American community stating that previous funding had not done what was intended and suggesting the funds should be given to a local non-profit for allocation.

2. Approval of the minutes from the April 2, 2014 Regular Meeting and April 30, 2014 Special Called Meeting

The minutes stand as presented.

3. Presentation: City of Austin's African American population decline between 2000 and 2010 (Dr. Eric Tang, Assistant Professor and Faculty fellow IUPRA, University of Texas at Austin Division of Diversity and Community Engagement)

Dr. Tang began his presentation with some statistical data showing that Austin is a unique city in the US due to the fact that Austin's African American population is declining while the rest of the population grows rapidly. In most cities with rising populations all ethnic populations grow. Dr. Tang stated that housing costs are a large factor in the declining African American population, as well as education and employment opportunities.

4. Discussion: Partnership between the African American Resource Advisory Commission and SXSW, Inc. (Amin UBJ Simms, SXSW Registrar)

Mr. Amin Simms presented information on the Platinum badges that SXSW, Inc. provides to support Austin African American youths so that they can attend the entire conference free of charge. SXSW, Inc. provides at least 6 passes each year (usually more) based on applications received from local youth interested in attending. Staff members at the Carver Museum and Huston-Tillotson College usually select the winning applicants. For those wishing to attend that do not receive the free badges, volunteer opportunities are also available. Those volunteers are also able to attend free of charge.

- 5. Presentation: City of Austin Health Department's African American Quality of Life programs and introduction of new Program Manager (Stephanie Hayden, Assistant Director, Health and Human Services Department)**

Stephanie Hayden introduced the new African American Quality of Life Program Manager for the Health & Human Services Department, Adrienne Sturup. Ms. Sturup presented some details of their programs which include disease prevention and education as well as health screenings. Community engagement will be part of Ms. Sturup's responsibilities.

- 6. Updates from Working Groups**
a. Small Business/Parking Issues on E. 11th & E. 12th Streets

The working group is in the process of setting up a meeting with the Assistant City Manager over the Austin Transportation Department.

- b. Photograph Selection for Mural**

The event for the unveiling of the additional photographs newly embedded in the mural at the African American Cultural & Heritage Festival will be on Monday, June 9, 2014 at 10:00am.

- c. Health and Mental Health**

No activity to report

- d. Public Safety**

Commissioner Cook went on a ride-along with APD.

- e. AAQL/Human Rights Commission**

No activity to report

- 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 a presentation from the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce on their programs, a presentation on the process for City Procurement, and a presentation on the report from the Boards & Commissions Task Force.

- 8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.