



**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 2014**

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Smith, Chair
Sherry Cherry
Wayne Cook

Clifford Gillard
Daryl Horton, Vice Chair
Nelson Linder

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Barnes
Deena Estrada
Melodye Foust
Stephanie Hayden

Sylnovia Holt Rabb
Shannon Jones
Yolanda Miller

CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm by Commissioner Horton.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Ms. Sharita Ambrose addressed the Commission concerning the Texas Black Women's Initiative and a recommendation to the City Council for funding support that would specifically target African American women to reduce the incidence of AIDS in the community.

Ms. Deena Estrada introduced herself as the City's new Boards & Commissions Coordinator and reminded the Commissioners to respond to the survey on the recommendations from the Boards & Commissions Transition Task Force.

THERE MAY BE DISCUSSION ON ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

2. Approval of the minutes from the June 4, 2014 Regular Meeting

The minutes stand as presented.

3. Presentation: Overview of services provided by the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce (Ashton Cumberbatch, Board Chair)

Without objection this item was postponed to the August Commission meeting.

4. Presentation: Overview of the City's procurement process for non-profit entities (Yolanda Miller, City of Austin Deputy Purchasing Officer; Stephanie Hayden, Assistant Director, Health & Human Services Department)

Ms. Yolanda Miller presented information on the City's procurement process stating that the Purchasing Department oversees the purchase of all goods and services for the City of Austin. The Purchasing Department sets the purchasing limits for various levels of approval and sends out solicitations for various goods and services.

Ms. Stephanie Hayden presented information on the solicitation process for social services contracts overseen by the Health and Human Services Department. The vendor requirements for these contracts include non-profit status, not owing City taxes or being disbarred from government contracting, insurance, not owing income tax and having filed tax returns, professional audit, having a board of directors, and demonstration of experience.

Ms. Synovia Holt Rabb, Assistant Director, Economic Development Department, presented information on the Cultural Funding Contracts. These contracts are funded with a portion of the Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax funds. These contracts are done on a two-year cycle and the vendors must be a non-profit. There are three programs that receive these funds—Core Funding Program, Cultural Expansion Program, and Community Initiative and are allocated with the assistance of industry peer panels.

5. Approval of the number of individuals to be honored annually with a tile on the mural or benches at the African American Cultural & Heritage Facility

Without objection this item was postponed to the August Commission meeting.

6. Updates from Working Groups

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

No report

b. Photograph Selection for Mural

No report

c. Health and Mental Health

No report

d. Public Safety

Working Group is looking at Community Forums.

e. AAQL/Human Rights Commission

This group has completed their assignment and is now dissolved. There will be no future reports.

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)

Items 3 & 5 are postponed to the August meeting. The Commissioners would like to invite a bank representative to a future meeting to discuss access to capital. An item on Section 8 Housing Vouchers may be on the September agenda. A presentation on urban rail may be requested for the October or November agenda. An item on reversal of the trend in declining African American population in Austin may be requested for a future agenda.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.