



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

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Daryl Horton, Chair  
Sherry Cherry, Vice Chair  
Wayne Cook  
Dr. Chiquita Eugene

Clifford Gillard  
Nelson Linder  
Greg Smith

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Melodye Foust

Dusty McCormick

**CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.**

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

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Ms. Marva Overton of the Alliance for African American Health in Central Texas spoke to the Commission concerning creation of a task force on pedestrian safety. Ms. Overton stated that she would like to make a presentation on the task force at the Commission's December meeting.

Mr. Michael Lofton of the African American Youth Harvest Foundation spoke to the Commission concerning funding received from the City's Health & Human Services Department. Mr. Lofton stated that his organization's funding was being cut 52% which was concerning as they had exceeded all obligations of their contract with the City.

Mr. Karl Nichols of the African American Youth Harvest Foundation spoke to the Commission concerning funding cuts for their organization.

**2. Community Nominations of Individuals to be considered for inclusion in the Art in Public Places Project at the African American Cultural and Heritage Facility**

Ms. Arlene Youngblood presented the nomination for her grandfather, Mr. Theodore R. Youngblood, Sr.

Mr. Darwin Hamilton presented the nomination for his father, Mr. James Earnest Hamilton.

Ms. Lisa Byrd presented the nomination for her colleague, Reverend Freddie Dixon, Sr.

**3. Approval of the minutes from the October 1, 2014 Regular Meeting**

The minutes stand as presented.

**4. Presentation and Discussion: SXSX Platinum Badge Opportunity—process for applications and collaboration with Commission for outreach (Amin Simms, SXSX Registrar and Catlin Whittington, SXSX Planner)**

Mr. Amin Simms and Mr. Catlin Whittington presented the SXSX Platinum Badge Opportunity information stating that SXSX annually awards approximately 10 platinum badges to students. The students must complete an application and essay. There is a deadline of February 15 for the applications to be submitted, but this is usually flexible.

5. **Presentation: Update on the activities of the African American Cultural Heritage District in 2014 and upcoming events in 2015 and possible unmet needs for 2015 (Lisa Byrd, Staff, African American Cultural Heritage District)**

Ms. Lisa Byrd provided an update on the activities of the African American Cultural Heritage District for 2014. Ms. Byrd stated that in 2014 the District had provided tours of the District, worked with Keeling Middle School on the Discover Heritage Map, and participated in Historic Downs Field Days. For 2015 the District will look at ways to fund improvements to Downs Field, provide tours of the District, and work with Rosewood Courts on their Master Plan.

6. **Discussion and Possible Action: Space allocation for Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce at African American Cultural and Heritage Facility and possibility of expansion of the African American Cultural and Heritage Facility**

This item was withdrawn.

7. **Possible Action: Form a Working Group to work with the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce to look at space allocation and to look into the possibility of expansion of the African American Cultural and Heritage Facility**

This item was withdrawn.

8. **Action: Approval of Commission Meeting Dates for 2015**

**A motion to approve the Commission's meeting dates for 2015 was made by Commissioner Smith; seconded by Commissioner Linder. Vote 5-0 with Commissioners Cooke and Eugene off the dais.**

9. **Updates from Working Groups**

- a. **Small Business/Parking Issues on E. 11<sup>th</sup> & E. 12<sup>th</sup> Streets**

There was no report.

- b. **Photograph Selection for Mural**

With the nominations presented, there was no additional report.

- c. **Health and Mental Health**

- d. **Public Safety**

There was no report.

10. **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 December agenda there will be an action item to form Working Groups to look into the possible expansion of the Carver Museum and to work with the other minority Commissions in a focus group, a presentation from Marva Overton on pedestrian safety and representatives from Circuit of the Americas to discuss African American vendor participation in events at the track.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.