



**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 7, 2015**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

Clifford Gillard  
Nelson Linder  
Greg Smith

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Laura Esparza  
Melodye Foust  
Council Member Ora Houston  
Dusty McCormick

Bernadette Phifer.  
Ricardo Soliz  
Cora Wright

**CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.**

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

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Council Member Ora Houston greeted the Commissioners and addressed them concerning the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original African American Scorecard prepared by the City's Demographer. Ms. Houston would like to see the scorecard re-done and see where we are now. Ms. Houston also informed the Commissioners about a Leadership Austin meeting and the Mayor's reconciliation training.

**2. Discussion and Possible Action: Discussion of approved nominations for the 2015 inclusion in the Art in Public Places Project mural at the African American Cultural and Heritage Facility and possible action on the nominations list.**

The Commissioners discussed the nomination process.

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

Without objection this item was postponed.

**4. Presentation: Original Plans for Phase II and Phase III at the George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center (Cora Wright, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department)**

Ms. Cora Wright introduced her team: Laura Esparza, Ricardo Soliz, and Bernadette Phifer and presented information on the original plan for the three phases of expansion for the George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center. Ms. Wright explained that the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> phases were not completed due to lack of identified funding. Ms. Phifer spoke about some of the programming that is being done at the Carver.

**5. Discussion and Possible Action: Commission Accomplishments for 2014 in preparation for annual report to Mayor & Council**

Without objection this item was postponed.

**6. Discussion and Possible Action: Commission Work Plan and Goals for 2015 in preparation for annual report to Mayor & Council**

The Commissioners discussed some items that they would like to work on in 2015 including the small business and parking issues on E. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets, addressing economic disparities in the community, expansion of the Carver, and the results of the re-do of the scorecard.

**7. Updates from Working Groups**

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

Group has met with Austin Transportation Assistant Director Gordon Derr.

**b. Photograph Selection for Mural**

Discussed as part of Item 2

**c. Health and Mental Health**

No report.

**d. Public Safety**

No report.

**e. Expansion of Carver**

Discussed as part of Item 4

**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 Commissioners would like a presentation on the changes to the permitting and safety for SXSW, a presentation on the proposal for a PGA golf course in the Decker Lake area, a presentation on African American vending at the Circuit of the Americas, and a discussion of the changes to the City's Boards & Commissions ordinance.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.