



**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 2, 2015**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jessica Faith Carter  
Dr. Chiquita Eugene  
Clifford Gillard  
Daryl Horton

Garfield Landry  
Nelson Linder  
Michael Lee  
Kenneth Thompson  
Aaron Whatley

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ashton Cumberbatch  
Melodye Foust  
Council Member Ora Houston  
Dusty McCormick

Dr. Kazique Prince  
Mark Washington  
Beverly Wilson

**CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.**

In the absence of a Commission Chair, Acting Assistant City Manager Mark Washington, Executive Liaison to the Commission, called the meeting to order at 5:40pm.

**1. Introduction of New Commission Members**

Commission Members provided a brief introduction of themselves.

**2. Introduction of Staff Liaison and Executive Liaison**

Executive Liaison, Mark Washington and Staff Liaison, Melodye Foust, introduced themselves.

**3. Discussion of Mission of Commission**

Mr. Washington and Ms. Foust provided information on the Mission for the African American Resource Advisory Commission.

**4. Election of Officers**

A motion to elect Daryl Horton Chair of the Commission was made by Commissioner Gillard; seconded by Commissioner Eugene. Vote 9-0.

A motion to elect Michael Lee as Vice Chair of the Commission was made by Commissioner Linder; seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The vote failed 5-4.

A motion to elect Chiquita Eugene as Vice Chair of the Commission was made by Commissioner Gillard; seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The vote failed 4-5.

**5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Ms. Valerie Fruge spoke to the Commission regarding the Pedestrian Advisory Council and the Vision Zero Task Force which addresses pedestrian safety.

Mr. Gavino Fernandez spoke to the Commission regarding the LULAC organization and a project to create a think tank.

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

There were no nominations.

**7. Approval of the minutes from the June 3, 2015 Regular Meeting**

The minutes stand as presented.

**8. Discussion:** Commission Recommendation 20140430-004 on funding to alleviate disparities in Austin's African American Community (Ora Houston, Council Member District 1)

Council Member Houston discussed the various items relating to African American Quality of Life that would be part of the Council's budget discussions. Council Member Houston asked the Commissioners for the community priorities.

**9. Presentation:** East Austin Economic Summit (Ora Houston, Council Member District 1; Kazique Prince, Mayor's Office; Ashton Cumberbatch, Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce)

Council Member Ora Houston, Dr. Kazique Prince, and Mr. Ashton Cumberbatch spoke to the Commission regarding the East Austin Equitable Development Event to be held at the Travis County Expo Center on Saturday, September 12, 2015 beginning at 9:00am. The event will help to identify guiding principles, core values, share ideas, and create short/long term goals to foster economic growth and amenities in East Austin.

**10. Discussion and Possible Action: Commission By-Laws and necessary changes to the current By-Laws**

Without objection, this item was postponed to the October meeting.

**11. Discussion and Possible Action: Establish Working Groups and Possible Assignments**

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

No report.

**b. Photograph Selection for Mural**

No report.

**c. Health and Mental Health**

No report.

**d. Public Safety**

No report.

**e. Expansion of Carver**

Carver Staff are preparing to receive community input on the plan to expand the facility.

**A motion to create a Working Group to address the community priorities for the City's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget was made by Commissioner Thompson; seconded by Commissioner Whatley. Vote 9-0. The Working Group will consist of Commissioners Horton, Eugene, Gillard, and Eugene.**

**12. 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 October meeting the agenda will include the approval of the revised by-laws, a presentation on Vision Zero by City Staff, and possible nominations for additional Commission members.

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.