



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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

LaTisha Anderson
Jessica Faith Carter
Aaron Demerson
Dr. Chiquita Eugene
Clifford Gillard
Daryl Horton, Chair

Garfield Landry
Nelson Linder
Michael M. Lee, Esquire
Kenneth Thompson
Aaron Whatley

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cindy Crosby
Melodye Foust
Jannette Goodall
Sylvia Holt Rabb
Ora Houston
Dusty McCormick

Jesse Rodriguez
Myrna Rios
Vicky Valdez
Mark Washington
Beverly Wilson

CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45pm by Commissioner Horton.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Ms. Beverly Gentle addressed the commission concerning an art program for incarcerated individuals at the Del Valle Correctional Institution.

Mr. Chas Moore addressed the commission concerning the historic preservation of Rosewood Courts.

2. Community Nominations of Individuals to be considered for inclusion in the *Reflections* Mural at the African American Cultural and Heritage Facility

There were no nominations.

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

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

The minutes stand as presented.

4. Briefing: SXSW 2016 Platinum Badge applications and procedures; collaboration with Commission for outreach (Amin Simms, SXSW Registrar)

Mr. Amin Simms briefed the commission on the application process for the Platinum Badge Scholarships given each year in the name of the commission.

5. Briefing: FY2016 Budget Items relating to African American Quality of Life (Council Member Ora Houston)

Council Member Ora Houston briefed the commission on the items from the FY2016 City of Austin budget that specifically addressed inequities in the African American population.

6. Discussion and Possible Action: Membership of the Commission

The Working Group presented the 2 proposals they developed, the first was to remain at 17 members per the current ordinance and the second was to move to 11 members with a 6-member Advisory Group that would consist of the entities named in the current ordinance.

A motion to reduce the commission to the current 11 members was made by Commissioner Thompson; seconded by Commissioner Linder with a friendly amendment to eliminate the 6-member Advisory Group from Commissioner Gillard. Motion failed on a 7-2-2 vote with Commissioners Eugene and Horton abstaining.

A motion to reduce the commission to the current 11 members with the 6 members from named organizations as Ex Officio was made by Commissioner Eugene; seconded by Commissioner Demerson. Motion failed on a 8-1-2 vote with Commissioners Linder and Lee abstaining.

A motion to reconsider the previous motion was made by Commissioner Thompson; seconded by Commissioner Demerson. Motion failed on 4-7 vote.

7. Discussion and Possible Action: Membership Qualifications

A motion to eliminate the African American Cultural Heritage District as one of the named organizations for membership was made by Commissioner Linder; seconded by Commissioner Whatley. Motion failed on a 7-2-2 vote with Commissioners Eugene and Gillard abstaining.

8. Discussion and Possible Action: Purpose and Duties of the Commission

There were no motions to change the purpose or duties of the commission.

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

There were no motions to change the by-laws of the commission.

10. Discussion and Possible Action: Nominations for additional Commission appointments and possible recommendation to Council

A motion was made to accept the four applications for membership presented to align with the organizations named in the current ordinance was made by Commissioner Demerson; seconded by Commissioner Whatley. Motion failed on a 4-6-1 vote with Commissioner Eugene abstaining.

11. Discussion and Possible Action: Election of Commission Vice Chair

This item was postponed to the January meeting.

12. Briefing: Update on the development of the Office of Diversity and Equity (Mark Washington, Acting Assistant City Manager)

Mr. Mark Washington and Council Member Ora Houston briefed the commission on the creation of the Equity Office for the City of Austin.

13. Discussion and Possible Action: Establish Working Groups and Possible Assignments

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

There was no report.

b. Photograph Selection for Mural

There was no report.

c. Health and Mental Health

There was no report.

d. Public Safety

There was no report.

e. Expansion of Carver

There was no report.

f. Changes to By-Laws and Commission Membership

There was no report.

14. 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 commission would like future presentations on the operation practices at the Carver Museum and Cultural Center, additional information from Ms. Beverly Gentle on the inmate art program, a presentation on the Community Land Trust, and a presentation from the City's Historic Preservation Officer on Rosewood Courts. The commission would also like to have a retreat to discuss their work plan and goals. Appointments to the Joint Inclusion Committee and Joint Cultural Committee need to be on a future agenda.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.