



## **African American Resources Advisory Commission MINUTES**

**MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, April 6, 2016**

The African American Resources Advisory Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at Street-Jones Building, Room 400 in Austin, Texas.

**African American Resources Advisory Commissioners in Attendance:** LaTisha Anderson, Jessica Faith Carter, Aaron Demerson, Chiquita Eugene, Clifford Gillard, Daryl Horton, Marissa Jones, Garfield Landry, Michael Lee, Ruthie Redmond, Greg Smith, Nelson Linder, Kenneth Thompson, Aaron Whatley. **Absent:** Tam Hawkins

**City Staff in Attendance:** Economic Development Department (EDD) Assistant Director Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, EDD Small Business Program Manager Vicky Valdez, EDD Economic & Business Development Liaison Dusty McCormick, Councilmember Houston's Senior Executive Assistant Beverly Wilson, Interim Assistant City Manager Washington's Senior Executive Assistant Trinh Bartlett, and EDD Liaison Linda Hayes.

**Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the March 9, 2016 meeting were approved with one correction: Raette Hearn-Smith

### **1. Citizen Communication:**

- a. Beverly Gentle thanked the commission for the support of the Inmates Exhibit and finding locations to display the exhibit. With updates from the exhibits on 2/14/2016 at Grant AME Worship Center, the next upcoming exhibit in September with the Hispanic Heritage month presentation. Mr. Nelson Linder attending the worship service on that day requested his picture. Ms. Gentle presented his picture to him.
- b. Dusty McCormick Local President of the NFPBA mission to help or assist African American to get senior managers possible as manager's issue with the city, county and federal. Black lives matters but Black careers matters. Kenneth Thompson ask how we address and what is the commission whole in this issue. Mr. Demerson subjected to establish a working group to handle this issue.
- c. Measure Austin back ground on measure Austin combine data for the Police Department and provide a survey on the Police Department. The group what a survey pertaining there raw data and create number. They met with the Chief of Police about David Joseph pertaining to communication with the community. As a group they try to create the

dialogue from them to the city. Measure Austin is requesting support from African American Quality Of Life. They will put on for the next meeting as an agenda item.

## **2. Introduction of New Commission Members:**

New appointed commissioners were present; Ruthie Redmond

### **Presentations:**

- a. Candice Cooper vice chairperson the AAHN presented from the network of the workforce, draft letter and attachment of a table highlights information provided in the letter. Purpose of communication the behalf of African employees for COA, to promote cultural social awareness, issues to African in the community in the workforce and for the youth. The workforce concerns the annual black history program which for the African American workforce and at the event they passed out a survey pertaining to the workforce issue. After the program the meeting they discuss issues that the workforce are through for the pass year for example how executive treated for example Mr. Anthony Snipes. Discuss that African men and women are the low paid in salary. Candice discussed how no African representation with African Employees in some City departments. One issue with COA how a work session was created at the same time as the luncheon and discussion was brought up amount how council and executive staff was not in attendance to the luncheon. Candice is requesting the support of the commission for the AAHN in there endeavor with the City of Austin. Process a general letter for the commission on the support of the commission. A vote was approved and passes to create a letter on the behalf of the commission. Joya Hayes provided information about the demographic for the employees represent non-sworn and civil service will provided in the coming week.
- b. Ryan Robinson on the Demographic of the City and households on cites by diversity and cultural divisions of the city. With the comparison for the different cities for examples cities like Houston, Dallas and different states like Florida. Showing the lower incomes citizen rent instead on buy. He provided the brake down my zip codes; he also showed families have moved out of the city limits of Austin. He ask the major question is the City of Austin because the city of the rich and famous and not for the Austonian that born and raised in Austin Texas. Future group is the impact of the city and Austin loosing African Americans to other surrounding cities and other metropolitan level cities.
- c. Ed Van-Eno debuty chief financial Budget officer presented on the city budget process the office to an annual citizen survey. On how the city is performing this have a broad decision on the city budget. Do an economic outlook for the city, Pupil engagement with Pupil in a Box. An overview on what the budget process is for the city of Austin. The roles for the commission to the budget department and the advisory role for the commission. The

commission for a recommendation for the budget would have to be in before the May Council meetings.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Board Retreat

Tentatively Delores Duffy Green Building

Carver Library

Date and Time 4/23 after 12:00 pm because on Council-member Houston's Community Town hall Meeting. Commission members decided to change the date for during the day and on a week day. Staff will assist with the retreat with a date, time and location

### **3. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

May Meeting

1. How do we communicate out the community
2. Change the date of the meeting.
3. Once a month in the community once a quarter somewhere in the community
4. Discussion of the by-laws new members on board by-laws overview
5. Facilitators Ms. Jackson the cost is the concern or Marion Sanchez

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Names for the mural Brenda Urps and W. Astor Kirk the committee will come together to present the names to the workgroup.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITMES**

Measure Austin

Urban Fest update

Overall the events a lot of weekly events how do we promote the events for example Dr. James Polk how do we help community awareness how to we get support for the different groups. Web

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Daryl Horton.