



African American Resources Advisory Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

The African American Resources Advisory Commission convened in a meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at the Britton, Durst, Howard and Spence Community Center, 1183 Chestnut Avenue in Austin, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 by Chair Kenneth Thompson.

African American Resources Advisory Commissioners:

Present: Chair Kenneth Thompson, LaTisha Anderson, Jessica Faith Carter, Miriam Conner, Aaron Demerson, Clifford Gillard, Tam Hawkins, Daryl Horton, Nelson Lindner, Farah Muscadin, and Ruthie Redmond, and Gregory Smith

Absent: Vice Chair Chiquita Eugene and Marissa Jones

City Staff in Attendance: Economic Development Department (EDD) Assistant Director Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Assistant City Manager Mark Washington, Chief Equity Officer Brion Oaks, EDD Development Services Administrator and Liaison Linda Hayes and EDD Small Business Program Manager Vicky Valdez.

1. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the July 11 regular meeting were approved unanimously following a motion by Commissioner Gillard, seconded by Commissioner Demerson.

2. Citizen Communication:

- a. Vanessa Silas, General Manager of the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex seeks financial support for several items at the Complex, including digital upgrades so they can continue to show movies other than 35 mm.
- b. Michael Lofton, President and CEO of African American Youth Harvest Foundation asked the Commission to continue to support the Foundation. He seeks funding to buy the 45,000 square foot building occupied by the Foundation to be owned by the community.
- c. Ernesto Hernandez and his grandfather, muralists from El Paso, spoke to the Commission about how his community impacted gentrification where they live. They present the idea to create a mural for Mr. Overton, involving youth in the community. Commissioner Conner will be the lead in this request.

3. Presentation:

- a. Veteran's Arts Festival – Glenn Towery, Chairman & Founder of the Veterans Suicide Prevention Channel spoke about the online channel and the organization's focus on veterans and their families. The Austin Veterans Art Festival would be annual and open to all veterans and their family members, beginning in 2018 or 2019. The Festival would be held on a weekend and include a veterans' car show, veterans' poetry slam, and veterans' motorcycle show.
- b. Overview of the City Council Six Priorities – Kimberly Olivares, Chief Performance Officer gave an overview of Austin's first strategic plan in over a decade. It aims to ensure that the City is able to be adaptive to changing needs of the community. Council has determined that the vision of Imagine Austin will be the vision of the City, and has determined six outcome priorities. They are: Economic Opportunities and Affordability, Mobility, Safety, Health, Cultural and Learning Opportunities, and Government that Works. The plan is being developed with input from all levels of the City organization to



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determine outcomes, metrics and strategies. More information can be found on website at AustinStrategicPlan.bloomfire.com.

- c. City of Austin Police Monitor's Office – Devon Desai, Interim Police Monitor spoke to the Commission to introduce himself and talk about the opportunity during contract negotiation to expand oversight and transparency of Austin police. The Citizens Review Panel is seven citizens who can access information that is confidential under state law and make recommendations to the Chief of Police.
- d. 2016 Mobility Bond Overview – Mike Trimble, Director, and Corridor Program Office made a presentation on the 2016 Mobility Bond program. In November 2016 Austin passed the \$720 million mobility bond package, the City's largest transportation bond to date. There are three components: \$101 million for regional mobility improvements; \$137 million for local mobility improvements including bike mobility, sidewalks, intersection improvements to improve safety, and urban trails, including a safe routes to schools program; and \$482 million for corridor mobility. Studies have been completed for some, but not all corridors. Corridors for which studies have been completed could receive construction funds for improvements; for the corridors that have not been studied, bond funding will be used for those studies. More information is available online at austintexas.gov/2016Bond. Some programs are run through Austin Transportation Department; others are through Public Works Department. The Council's goal is to have these improvements completed within eight years. City Council's Contract with Voters commits to achieving these outcomes: reduced congestion, reduced delay at intersections across all modes of transportation, connectivity, and improved effectiveness of transit operations within the corridors and throughout the system. Projects and improvements are prioritized in order to meet these outcomes. There is a Bond Oversight Commission.

4. Working Groups:

- a. Small Business/Parking Issues on E. 11th & E. 12th Streets: This ad-hoc working group is no longer needed. Motion was made by Commissioner Thompson and seconded by Commissioner Connor to abolish this working group. The motion passed with Commissioners Carter, Connor, Horton, Muscadin, Nelson, Smith and Thompson voting in favor and Commissioner Gillard abstaining.

Commissioner Muscadin moved to table discussion on the remaining working groups (4b-h) until the Commission's retreat. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Linder and passed unanimously.

- b. Mural:
- c. Health and Mental Health:
- d. Public Safety:
- e. Expansion of Carver Museum:
- f. Solar and Economic:
- g. Youth and Education:
- h. Urban Music/Other Cultural Activities:



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5. Old Business:

- a. Artist Registry Update: Working on plan
- b. Facebook Live Broadcast Update: City doesn't have staff available to perform this function, so it would have to be performed by a member of the public. More information is needed regarding the options available to the Commission and to commissioners.

6. New Business:

- a. AARAC Annual Report to be presented by Chair of the Commission. Any changes to the draft report need to be provided within 24 hours.
- b. Commission Retreat: Commissioners are asked to consider possible weekend dates in September. Staff will conduct a doodle survey.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to table discussion on items 6.c and 6.d until the retreat.

- c. Council Priorities:
 - i. Economic Opportunities and Affordability
 - ii. Mobility
 - iii. Safety
 - iv. Health
 - v. Cultural and Learning Opportunities
 - vi. Government that Works
- d. Communication Strategy Plan.

7. Commission and Staff Update:

- a. Liaison Roles and Responsibilities Overview: Postponed until next meeting
- b. In the future, support from two commissioners is required to add a Future Agenda item.

8. Future Agenda Items:

- a. Austin Energy to talk about their Customer Assistance Program (CAP) (Commissioners Anderson and Muscadin)
- b. Measure Austin to present at next meeting prior to their symposium in October (Commissioners: Muscadin, Anderson)
- c. Bethany Christian Church (Commissioners Gillard, Muscadin)
- d. Chapter 380 Resolution - David Colligan, Global Business Recruitment & Expansion Division Manager, EDD (Commissioners Thompson, Anderson)
- e. Soul-y Austin – Nicole Klepadlo, Redevelopment Project Manager, EDD

9. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Thompson.