



African American Resources Advisory Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

The African American Resources Advisory Commission convened in a meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at Street-Jones Building, 1000 East 11th Street, Room 400-A in Austin, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 5:33 by Chair Daryl Horton.

African American Resources Advisory Commissioners:

Present: Chair Daryl Horton, Vice Chair Chiquita Eugene, LaTisha Anderson, Jessica Faith Carter, Aaron Demerson, Clifford Gillard, Tam Hawkins, Marissa Jones, Michael Lee, Nelson Linder, Ruthie Redmond, Gregory Smith, Kenneth Thompson, and Aaron Whatley.

Absent: Lisa Fritsch

City Staff in Attendance: Economic Development Department (EDD) Assistant Director Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Assistant City Manager Mark Washington, Andre Ewing Policy Aide from Council Member Houston Office and EDD Development Services Administrator and Liaison Linda Hayes.

1. Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes of the January 10, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously as corrected following a motion by Commissioner Gillard, seconded by Commissioner Thompson.

2. Citizen Communication:

Barbara Horowitz, Project Manager with EDD Art in Public Places (AIPP) described AIPP program and announced \$90,000 open call opportunity in District 5.

3. Presentations:

- a. Jonathon Tomko, Planner with Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Dept. (NHCD) gave a presentation on the 2017-18 Action Plan (AP) and Community Needs Assessment portion of the AP. He discussed NHCD's mission, the federal grants they administer, and how these funds, as well as local funds, are invested in Austin. Community Needs Assessment will kickoff March 1 and continue through May, and Mr. Tomko will return to the Commission on March 7. Mr. Tomko is seeking participation in the Community Needs Assessment and more information is available on NHCD's website.
- b. Tom Noonan, President and CEO; Tiffany Dixon-Kerr, Marketing Director; and Page Singleton, all of Austin Convention Center and Visitor Bureau (ACVB) gave a presentation regarding ACVB, which is the Sales and Marketing arm of the Convention Center. ACVB seeks to increase its Heritage and Diversity Marketing, as directed by City Council last year, and they are looking for Heritage and Diversity Marketing Manager. They are also working with the Black, Hispanic and Asian Chambers of Commerce. Mr. Noonan described ACVB, including its formation, funding sources, mission and marketing. Ms. Singleton described ACVB's efforts to book diverse events, including working with Commissioners Hawkins and Linder.
- c. Laura Esparza, Museums and Cultural Division Manager; Ricardo Soliz, Planning Division Manager; and Kimberly McNeely, Assistant Director, all with Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) gave a presentation on the Carver facility expansion. Ms. Esparza emphasized the City's and PARC's commitment to the mission of the



African American Resources Advisory Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Carver. They described the expansion project, including Phases 1 and 2 and an anticipated Phase 3, and announced the hiring of a new Executive Director.

- d. Tyson Brown, Vice President of Pecan Springs – Springdale Neighborhood Association and Pinaki Ghosh, Chair of the East MLK Neighborhood Plan Contact Team spoke about connectivity projects in the areas, which includes parts of Districts 1, 3 and 9. Mr. Ghosh spoke about proposed hike and bike trails to provide transportation access to people without cars. Mr. Brown spoke about the Morris Williams Golf Course & Hike & Bike Trail. He also discussed the opportunities for connecting the recently completed Southern Walnut Creek Trail to existing trails and developing the Little Walnut Creek District Park and address flooding issues for people in adjacent neighborhoods.

4. Working Groups

- a. Small Business/Parking Issues on E. 11th & E. 12th Streets – No update
- b. Photograph Selection for Mural - No update
- c. Health and Mental Health - No update
- d. Public Safety – Commissioner Linder spoke about the sanctuary cities debate and its impact on Austin's black community. It is illegal to stop someone and ask about immigration status unless a crime has been committed.
- e. Expansion of Carver Library – Chair Horton solicited additional members for this Working Group. Commissioner Gillard will draft questions
- f. Solar and Economic – Commissioner Linder will send update to Ms. Hayes
- g. Youth and Education – Tour of Circuit of the Americas (COTA) on February 14 at 10:00 with AISD administrators to explore STEM partnerships
- h. Urban Music / Other Cultural Activities - No update
- i. Changes to By-Laws and Commission Membership – Commission membership is in accordance with City Council authorization
- j. Feasibility and Budget Committee has not met. Chari Horton asked Commissioners to read Spirit of East Austin announcement. Mr. Washington advised that the Commission ask for Budget related briefings at next meeting.

5. Old Business:

None

6. New Business:

None

7. Commission and Staff Updates

Ms. Holt-Rabb updated the Commission that staff has already asked for budget update and presentation from Chief Equity Officer and suggested there be a Joint Committee to ensure that communication flows freely among and between the Quality of Life Commissions.

8. Future Agenda Items:

- a. Visitor Impact Task Force



African American Resources Advisory Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

- b. Soul-y Austin – Nicole Klepadlo
- c. Parkland Task Force
- d. Government Relations Office presentation regarding upcoming legislation
- e. CodeNext
- f. Austin Energy
- g. AISD Master Plan - Nicole Conley, CFO or Dr. Jean Bahney, Executive Director of Special Education
- h. Transportation Department presentation regarding Transportation Bond Opportunities
- i. Einstein Project
- j. Angelos Angelou Economics regarding Austin's economic outlook

9. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned following a motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner Anderson.