



African American Resources Advisory Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

The African American Resources Advisory Commission convened in a meeting on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at Street-Jones Building, 1000 East 11th Street, Room 400-A in Austin, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 5:37 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, Marissa Jones, Nelson Linder, Farah Muscadin, Gregory Smith, Kenneth Thompson, and Aaron Whatley

Absent: Ruthie Redmond, Tam Hawkins, and Michael Lee.

City Staff in Attendance: Economic Development Department (EDD) Assistant Director Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Assistant City Manager Mark Washington, and EDD Development Services Administrator and Liaison Linda Hayes.

1. Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes of the March 7, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously following a motion by Commissioner Gillard, seconded by Commissioner Jones.

2. Citizen Communication:

- a. Nefertitti Jackmon, new Executive Director of Six Square introduced herself and said she will return next month with a presentation.
- b. Richard Franklin discussed the budget and budget deadlines. He asked for information regarding the budget timeline and the template for proposing items for inclusion in the budget.
- c. Marion Sanchez spoke about Table Talks, her upcoming work to engage community members to inform the Mayor's priorities regarding Spirit of East Austin.
- d. Aaron Timmons, Program Administrator with Minorities for Equality in Employment Education Liberty Justice (MEEELJ) introduced himself.
- e. Dexter Gilford, recently appointed Director of Civil Rights with Travis County District Attorney's Office introduced himself, spoke about his plans and solicited suggestions from the community. He looks forward to returning to the Commission with the District Attorney to discuss proposed changes.
- f. Commissioner Linder announced that April is Fair Housing Month and introduced Gail McCann, Administrator for the City's Fair Housing Office.

3. Presentations:

- a. Latreese Cooke and Aaron Timmons of MEEELJ Justice Center thanked the Commission for their support in obtaining funding and spoke about difficulties related to City funding. MEEELJ, in partnership with community organizations and employers, works with people who have been incarcerated. MEEELJ plans to open its second location in Austin in Fountain Park Plaza on Monday morning. Assistant City Manager Washington has scheduled a meeting to address the concerns raised by Ms. Cooke.



African American Resources Advisory Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

- b. Nicole Klepadlo was scheduled to speak about Soul-y Austin, but is unable to attend this meeting.
- c. City of Austin Chief Equity Officer Brion Oaks provided an update on the Equity Office and spoke about the interface between the Equity Office and the Resource Advisory Commission. The Equity Office has begun working with the community and with City Departments to identify concerns and issues. The Equity Office platform focuses on three areas: (1) Normalization or operationalize around equity using equity assessment tools, (2) review data to determine how to achieve outcomes, and (3) set up accountability tools. Mr. Oaks provided the first draft of the Equity Assessment Tool and asked Commissioners to provide feedback on the proposed tool. The Equity Action Team meets the third Friday of every month at noon and Commissioners are invited to join the team. Mr. Oaks also aims to establish an annual Equity Academy to train staff.

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 – No update, but Commissioners spoke of the need for Austin Police Department (APD) to address the disparities between how people are accommodated at South by Southwest versus blockades, tickets and arrests at Texas Relays.
- e. Expansion of Carver Library – No update
- f. Solar and Economic – will meet with Huston Tillotson Black is the New Green on April 10
- g. Youth and Education – was unable to meet last month with EDD Director Kevin Johns, so will reschedule
- h. Urban Music / Other Cultural Activities - No update
- i. Changes to By-Laws and Commission Membership – No update
- j. Feasibility and Budget Committee has not met

5. Old Business:

The resolution to the Visitors Impact Task Force was approved as amended following a motion by Commissioner Smith seconded by Commissioner Gillard.

6. New Business:

None

7. Commission and Staff Updates

- a. Chair Horton announced at the beginning of the meeting that the Urban Music Festival presented the Commission with an award in thanks for the Commission's support of the Festival.
- b. Chair Horton introduced Commissioner Farah Muscadin, representing District 10.



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Tuesday, April 4, 2017

8. Future Agenda Items:

- a. Immediately following Citizens Communication, Vice Chair Eugene was recognized out of order to present a future agenda item regarding summer interns. Dr. Eugene also asked for participation interviewing interns and seeking placements for interns.
- b. APD regarding treatment of festival participants at South by Southwest, Texas Relays, ROT Rally, Blues on the Green and Austin City Limits at May meeting
- c. Nicole Klepadlo regarding Soul-y Austin at May meeting
- d. Nefertitti Jackmon, Six Square at May meeting
- e. Vanessa Silas, General Manager of the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex (May meeting)

9. Adjournment:

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