



# African American Resources Advisory Commission

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

The African American Resources Advisory Commission convened in a meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at the Street-Jones Building, 1000 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street 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, Jessica Faith Carter, Aaron Demerson, Clifford Gillard, Marissa Jones, Farah Muscadin, Gregory Smith, and Kenneth Thompson

**Absent:** LaTisha Anderson, Miriam Conner, Vice Chair Chiquita Eugene, Tam Hawkins, and Aaron Whatley

**City Staff in Attendance:** Assistant City Manager Mark Washington, EDD Development Small Business Development Program Manager Vicky Valdez and EDD Development Services Administrator and Liaison Linda Hayes.

### **1. Approval of Minutes:**

- a. The minutes of the May 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were approved as corrected following a motion by Commissioner Linder, seconded by Commissioner Thompson.
- b. The minutes of the May 23<sup>rd</sup> special-called meeting were approved as corrected following a motion by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Jones.

### **2. Citizen Communication:**

- a. Amy Wong, CEO of the Asian American Cultural Center asked the Commission to support expanded services to Asian senior citizens by building an independent housing community for them at the Jollyville Road site of the Asian American Cultural Center. The organization needs consultants to understand development regulations and seeks support, not financial support, from the Commission.
- b. Vanessa Silas, General Manager of the Millennium Youth Entertainment Center (MYEC), spoke about the MYEC, which seeks additional funding to upgrade the bowling area and east end arena.
- c. Casey Dean from the Equal Employment and Fair Housing Office spoke about the work of her office and her current project to collect input from the community to identify barriers to reporting discrimination in employment and housing.
- d. Alvin Angell spoke on behalf of Spectrum Theater Company, Cap City Black Film Festival, Born Again Bodies Health and Wellness and AFTV 5 Network seeking funding consideration.
- e. Cat spoke as a private citizen who was present to learn.

### **3. Presentation:**

- a. Lara Foss, Project Manager, and Devin Wiley, intern, representing the Spirit of East Austin Project spoke about the project's outreach efforts, including recent pop-up engagements to invite community feedback about the seven issue areas which include public safety, transportation, jobs, housing and culture, education. More information can be found at [SpiritOfEastAustin.org](http://SpiritOfEastAustin.org). ACM Washington followed up with an update on the



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City's progress to date on the Spirit of East Austin initiative, including formation of the City's Equity Office.

### 4. Working Groups:

- a. Small Business/Parking Issues on E. 11<sup>th</sup> & E. 12<sup>th</sup> Streets: This was one-issue item and has been completed. Eliminate this working group.
- b. Photograph Selection for Mural: No update
- c. Health and Mental Health: No update
- d. Public Safety: No update, but Commissioners Linder suggested having the Police Monitor brief the Commission regarding changes to the Meet and Confer contract to address policing issues such as excessive use of force and the role of the Police Monitor. Working group (Commissioners Linder, Thompson and Muscadin) will arrange a meeting with the Police Monitor to develop recommendations.
- e. Expansion of Carver Museum: No update
- f. Solar and Economic: No update
- g. Youth and Education: No update
- h. Urban Music/Other Cultural Activities: Austin Hip Hop Urban Music Summit will be held next Friday at Doris Miller auditorium. The purpose is to develop a position paper for the community to be shared with the City and with business partners to move the genre to a different level.
- i. Feasibility ~ Budget Recommendations: see item 5

### 5. Old Business:

- a. FY-18 Budget Review and Recommendations: Commissioner Thompson described the revised process used by the working group to develop budget recommendations. Commissioners were asked to review the recommendations and ask any questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Redmond to accept the \$3.5 million budget and four budget categories approved by the working group. The motion carried with nine votes in favor, none opposed and one abstention. Commissioner Jones noted that she should be shown as abstaining from any item pertaining to the Austin Area Urban League. Commissioner Carter recuses from Youth Summer Jobs, Summer Enrichment Projects, Write to Me Foundation, Youth Unlimited, Pilot Program with AISD and HT.

### 6. New Business:

- a. None

### 7. Commission and Staff Update:

- a. Chair Update: Elections for Chair and Vice Chair are postponed until after City Clerk's Office has briefed the Commission. This briefing is scheduled for July.

### 8. Future Agenda Items:

- a. Police Monitor



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- b. Legislative update from Government Relations Office regarding recent legislation and upcoming special session
- c. CodeNext
- d. Austin Energy
- e. Transportation Department presentation regarding Transportation Bond Opportunities
- f. Carol Hadnot Disparity Study
- g. Nicole Kelpadlo – Souly- Austin
- h. Deena Estrada - City of Austin Clerk's Office

#### **9. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned following a motion by Commissioner Smith that was seconded by Commissioner Muscadin.