



African American Resources Advisory Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

The African American Resources Advisory Commission convened in a meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at City Hall, Room 1025 in Austin, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 5:47 by Chair Daryl Horton.

African American Resources Advisory Commissioners:

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

Absent: Vice Chair Chiquita Eugene, Tam Hawkins, and Aaron Whatley

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

1. Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes of the April 4, 2017 meeting were approved with the correction of the agenda date of April 4, 2016 to April 4, 2017, following a motion by Commissioner Gillard, seconded by Commissioner Muscadin it was unanimously approved.

2. Presentation of New Commissioner: Chair Horton introduced new Commissioner Miriam Conner.

3. Citizen Communication:

- a. Mr. Cloiram Williams spoke on behalf of his brother Lomas Perez who was shot nine times in his back, through his door at his home by Austin Police Department on April 7.
- b. Mr. Lloyd Elias, board member of Capital View Arts is seeking \$30,000 to support artists to develop their careers. The artists are engaged, volunteering in the East Austin community but receive no funding.
- c. Ms. Zenobia Joseph thanked the commission for the Derrick Hamilton House and spoke about Capital Metro. She would like to speak with the commission about the planned dismantling of the North Lamar Transit Center.
- d. Mr. Richard Franklin and Dr. Courtney Robinson represent three organizations coming together to present summer camps at HTU that focus on leadership development and academics through community service and field trips. They are looking to serve 100 middle school and high school youth this summer.
- e. Ms. Latreese Cooke asked for continued additional support MEEELJ, which provides services to people coming out of the justice system, including jobs, mental health support, and attorneys.
- f. Mr. Pinaki Ghosh, Chair of East MLK Contact Team – Flooding from adding impervious cover without adding infrastructure in East MLK. Homes in the neighborhood are experiencing flooding from drainage from Mueller and Morris Williams Golf Course. He provided graphics showing how water from the creeks flood houses nearby.



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- g. Mr. Barry James of the Austin Justice Coalition asked commissioners to attend the 2017 State of Black Austin event at the Greater Mt. Zion Church on May 26th from 7 to 9 p.m. and share their findings over the past year in key quality of life areas.
- h. Ms. Barbara Scott President of the Colony Park Neighborhood association and new organization Co-Chair of Friends of Northeast Austin. She talked with Mr. Smith about the young men that come to the TX Relays get arrested because they are showing their cars. She asked why the car show can't be held at the Travis County Expo Center, where other automobile and motorcycle events are held. Also asks for Commission for a letter of support to the Economic Development Department supporting implementation of the Colony Park Master Plan.
- i. Motion by Commissioner Thompson and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to allow an individual who was late because he had gone to Street-Jones Building to speak passed with one abstention.
- j. Mr. Alvin Angel of Compel Consulting is involved with Spectrum Theater Company, Capital City Black Film Festival, health and wellness organization Born Again Bodies and African American video production AFTV5 which will hold a US -Africa business matchmaking conference in October. He asks to give a formal presentation to the commission to describe the projects these organizations are involved in.

4. Presentations:

- a. District 1 Councilmember Ora Houston discussed CodeNext. She encouraged commissioners to attend CodeNext meetings and ask questions, including about the definitions of terms used. She discussed the City's goal regarding "compact and connected", and the expansion of the urban core east to Highway 183. The goal of CodeNext is increased density in East Austin. The desired development zone is the area east of Congress Avenue. She noted that there are demolitions and construction occurring without permits, and encouraged commissioners to report demolitions and construction when no permit is posted. She spoke about consequences of increasing density such as flooding that occur from increased impervious cover at Mueller.
- b. Nefertiti Jackmon, Executive Director presented the FY 16 Annual Report from Six Square Austin's Black Cultural District. She spoke about the organization's accomplishments in 2016. Purpose is to celebrate and preserve African American culture as observed in East Austin through education, economic development, and culturally relevant programming. The district covers the area bounded by Manor Road, IH-35, Airport Boulevard and Rosewood Avenue. Six Square curated over 25 events in 2016 through strategic partnerships. There will be a ribbon-cutting at Downs Field June 6 at 9:00 a.m. One of her goals for 2017 is to focus on a solid operational structure for Six Square and develop Six Square's brand.
- c. Robert Kingham, Director of the Youth Harvest foundation was not present to provide a budget update.

5. Working Groups

- a. Small Business/Parking Issues on E. 11th & E. 12th Streets – No update
- b. Mural - No update



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- c. Health and Mental Health - No update
- d. Public Safety – No update
- e. Expansion of Carver Library – No update
- f. Solar and Economic – Will talk with MEEELJ to make contact with the solar group Ms. Cooke is working with; also working to generate interest in these issues.
- g. Youth and Education met with Kevin Johns, EDD Director about Einstein; this is an ongoing conversation
- h. Urban Music / Other Cultural Activities - No update
- i. Changes to By-Laws and Commission Membership – No update
- j. Feasibility and Budget Committee – No update

6. Old Business:

FY 17 Quality of Life contracting information: AD Rabb responded to the commission's request to research all Quality of Life budget items, including for each item: the date it was considered by City Council, the Council approval date, the date the contract was executed, the date the contract was funded and date of the first payment. There is also a column for departments to comment regarding the item.

7. New Business:

- a. FY-18 Budget Feasibility Submission Review: ACM Washington provided information regarding the process Council has asked Quality of Life commissions to follow to identify needs without identifying specific organizations. Council could approve the need and dollar amount, then organizations could compete for contracts to provide those services. Councilmember Houston identified the strategic outcome areas the Council has identified: economic opportunity, mobility, safety, health, cultural and learning opportunities, and government that works. Council is trying to align departments and budgets with these priorities.
- b. Commission Officer Election Overview: Election of Chair and Vice Chair on May 23.
- c. Joint Inclusion Committee Member Replacement: Commissioner Lee needs to be replaced on the Joint Inclusion Committee. Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Commissioner Smith volunteered to represent the Commission on the Joint Inclusion Committee. The motion made by Commissioner Thompson and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to elect Commissioner Smith was approved unanimously.
- d. Special called meeting May 23, 2017

8. Commission and Staff Updates

- a. Commissioner Clifford Gillard proposes a Hip Hop Summit to begin a conversation about making Hip Hop music in Austin sustainable, to bring local hip hop artists from the underground into the mainstream. He has spoken with Doris Miller, Music Commission members and City staff, all of whom are interested in holding the summit on June 16 at Doris Miller. He is asking the Commission to attend the summit and provide logistic



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support. ACM Washington invited commissioners to attend a planning meeting May 15 at 4:30 in the City Manager's Office.

9. Future Agenda Items (for June meeting):

- a. Parks and Recreation regarding (1) rumors about a dog park at Givens and (2) Givens pool being closed this summer
- b. How to keep the community informed of the commission's presence and position between meetings when incidents occur
- c. Reports back on items from Citizens' Communication: Car show is assigned to Cultural Activities Committee, transportation and drainage issues will be investigated by the newly reactivated Neighborhood Sustainability Committee, headed by Commissioner Smith.
- d. Government Relations Office presentation regarding upcoming legislation
- e. CodeNext
- f. Austin Energy
- g. Transportation Department presentation regarding Transportation Bond Opportunities
- h. Carol Hadnot Disparity Study
- i. Vanessa Silas, General Manager of the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex
- j. Nicole Klepadlo – Souly- Austin
- k. Chapter 380 Policy Update – Resolution 20170302-34 – David Colligan, Global Recruitment and Expansion Division Manager, Economic Development Department

10. Adjournment:

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