



African American Resources Advisory Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

The African American Resources Advisory Commission convened in a meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 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, Tam Hawkins, Marissa Jones, Michael Lee, Nelson Linder, Gregory Smith, and Kenneth Thompson

Absent: Lisa Fritsch, Ruthie Redmond (excused), and Aaron Whatley.

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 February 7, 2017 meeting were approved as corrected following a motion by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Jones.

2. Citizen Communication:

- a. Richard Franklin discussed his proposal that wasn't funded in last year's budget. Seeking to put another recommendation before the commission.
- b. Zenobia Joseph discussed using hotel occupancy tax revenue to fund a book about the Dedrick-Hamilton House. Appointments are needed to visit the house, and information about it is scarce. Ms. Joseph would like for the story of the Dedrick-Hamilton House to be told regarding African American history in Austin. A series of three books might look at the Dedrick Hamilton House, and the histories of education and transportation in Austin.

3. Presentations:

- a. Gilbert Hicks, Associate Superintendent for Area 2 Elementary Schools, AISD presented based on questions he had received from Commissioners. He spoke about AISD demographics and graduation rates, and reported that AISD will host 2017 Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color. He then explained AISD's African American Achievement Plan. Commissioners may contact him at Gilbert.Hicks@austinisd.org.
- b. Assistant City Manager Mark Washington introduced City of Austin Deputy CFO Ed Van Eenoo to discuss the budget calendar and process. New this year, City Council started their strategic planning retreat in January. Also this year, Council will conduct reviews of departments funded by the General Fund. This looks like it will be a difficult budget year based on softening economy and potential legislation. Commission should engage with City Manager, via formal resolution or memorandum before early June if it has thoughts on what it would like to see included in the budget.
- c. Laura Esparza, Museums and Cultural Division Manager for Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) introduced Para Agboga, Museum and Theater Site Coordinator at Carver Museum presented the new Carver Museum Culture and Arts Education



African American Resources Advisory Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Manager Bamidele Agbasegbe Demerson. Mr. Demerson spoke about his background and his plans for the Carver Museum.

- d. Austin Police Department Assistant Chief Frank Dixon discussed the 2016 Racial Profiling Report, released in February. In 2017 Fair and Impartial Police Training is underway. APD also has three new courses at its academy, including Police Legitimacy; Ethics, Professionalism and Decision Making; and Tactical Communication and De-Escalation. 5th Circuit Decision on citizens filming of police. Building Bridges with Mike Manor and Commissioner Linder are helpful, but Chief would like significant increase in participation. APD recently participated in a KLRU Town Hall meeting, with the goal of being as transparent as possible. APD opposes the proposed Sanctuary Cities bill and has spent considerable time at churches in the community educating the public.
- e. Adrienne Rison-Isom, Educator Industrial Artist with Austin-Travis County Historic Commission discussed Art to Industrial Art programs and Austin history. Ms. Rison-Isom would like to collaborate to develop a program to subsidize teaching art to students in East Austin. Commissioner Gillard asked about the mural at the Dedrick-Hamilton House Cultural Center.
- f. ACM Washington introduced Chair James Russell and Co-Chair Mari Ben Ramsey of the City's Visitor Impact Task Force, which is looking at utilization of hotel occupancy tax. Chair Russell spoke of the work to date to collect information regarding the City's utilization of hotel occupancy tax revenues.

4. Working Groups

- a. Small Business/Parking Issues on E. 11th & E. 12th Streets – No update
- b. Photograph Selection for Mural - No update, but Commissioner Gillard will ask the City about contractual obligations regarding maintenance of the mural and any local opportunities.
- c. Health and Mental Health - No update
- d. Public Safety – No update
- e. Expansion of Carver Library – No update
- f. Solar and Economic – will meet this Thursday at 2:00 at ARA
- g. Youth and Education – will meet March 20 with EDD Director Kevin Johns
- 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, but will be meeting very soon.
- k. Visitors Impact Task Force - Commissioners Linder, Gillard, and Lee will work with staff to draft a letter regarding the Commission's priorities for the Visitor Impact Task Force.

5. Old Business:

None

6. New Business:



African American Resources Advisory Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

The City would like to ensure that information coming to any one QOL commission is made available to the other QOL commissions. Recommendation is for each QOL commission to have two representatives to meet periodically with the representatives from the other QOL commissions. Commissioner Hawkins and Commissioner Thompson agreed to represent the AAQOL Commission.

7. Commission and Staff Updates

- a. Ms. Holt-Rabb reported that the Urban Music Festival is not moving.
- b. Vice Chair Eugene asked Commissioners to identify African American youth to participate in the Summer Youth Employment Program. They have to apply online by March 17.
- c. Outreach and Public Relations: Ms. Holt-Rabb followed up on efforts to make commission meetings more public. One option is for KAZI to broadcast Commission meetings every other month.
- d. Staff is inviting all who were funded in past budget to report to the Commission regarding their work to date.

8. Future Agenda Items:

- a. Government Relations Office presentation regarding upcoming legislation
- b. CodeNext
- c. Austin Energy
- d. Transportation Department presentation regarding Transportation Bond Opportunities
- e. Austin Chief Equity Officer Brion Oaks
- f. Purchasing or SMBR Department regarding MBE/WBE contracts with the City of Austin and results of last disparity study

9. Adjournment:

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