



# African American Resources Advisory Commission

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

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The African American Resources Advisory Commission convened in a meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at Travis County Precinct 1, 4717 Heflin Lane, Conference Room in Austin, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 5:41 by Chair Kenneth Thompson.

### **African American Resources Advisory Commissioners:**

**Present:** Chair Kenneth Thompson, Vice Chair Chiquita Eugene, LaTisha Anderson, Jessica Faith Carter, Miriam Conner, Aaron Demerson, Clifford Gillard, Tam Hawkins, Daryl Horton, Marissa Jones, Nelson Lindner, Farah Muscadin, Ruthie Redmond, and Gregory Smith

**Absent:** Tam Hawkins and Marissa Jones

**City Staff in Attendance:** Council Member Ora Houston, Economic Development Department (EDD) Acting Deputy Director Sylvania Holt-Rabb, Assistant City Manager Mark Washington, and EDD Development Services Administrator and Liaison Linda Hayes.

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

The minutes of the December 5 regular meeting were approved unanimously following a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Conner.

### **2. Chair's Report:**

Chair Thompson reported that his primary focus has been on Carver Museum. He has met with the Bond Committee, networked in the community and talked with Carver staff. Many people don't realize that Phases 2 and 3 have not been started after 13 years.

He is also working to highlight economic and employment equity issues.

Chair Thompson congratulated Commissioner Muscadin on her appointment as the Interim Police Monitor and acknowledged her contribution to the Commission during her tenure.

### **3. Citizen Communication:**

- a. Louis Ordaz, Artistic and Executive Director of Proyecto Teatro asked the Commission to look into the Parks and Recreation Department's Artist Access Program. He said that outreach and guidelines have not been sufficient and many organizations have not applied.
- b. Hector Ordaz and Juan Overvices donated time to Louis Ordaz.
- c. Chair Thompson announced that the deadline has been extended to January 19, 2018 and questions can be directed to EDD Acting Deputy Director Sylvania Holt-Rabb.

### **4. Presentations:**

- a. Dell Medical School of The University of Texas at Austin: Mini Kahlon, Vice Dean for Strategy & Partnership at the University of Texas, and Kourtney Bailey, Project Coordinator introduced themselves and the Dell Medical School. In response to questions from Commissioners, she said that the Center has a senior team for Diversity and Inclusion to focus on recruiting people of color, and they are working with Central Health to address needs of people in Austin, looking at sites in Colony Park and Rosewood Zaragosa. She also announced a program called Place Based Center, a call for proposals that is being launched. Ms. Kahlon will arrange a tour for the Commission.



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- b. Austin Area Heritage Council - Martin Luther King Celebration: Joya Hayes was scheduled to present, but was detained at another meeting so Commissioner Thompson and ACM Mark Washington announced that the African American Resource Advisory Commission will be honored at the Capital during the Martin Luther King Day celebration. Ms. Holt-Rabb said that the march starts at the Martin Luther King statue at UT at 9:00 and ends at the capital, where Representative Dukes will honor the Commission for its work at approximately 10:15.

### 5. Working Groups:

- a. Photograph Selection for Mural: Mr. Kirk asked for the mural to be installed in April
- b. Health and Mental Health: Commissioner Smith is Chair and the only member.
- c. Public Safety: Commissioner Muscadin has been appointed as the Interim Police Monitor, effective next week. ACM Washington reported that Deven Desai will resume his position as Labor Relations Officer on the meet and confer agreements and offered a briefing to the Commission on Chapter 143 of the Texas Local Government Code.
- d. Expansion of the Carver Library: Commissioners are asked to attend any meetings they hear about regarding the bonds and talk about Carver Museum.
- e. Solar and Economic: Commissioner Thompson said he missed a meeting today with a group that is focused on why solar is so costly and how can solar be incorporated at Colony Park. Commissioner Redmond said that Austin Energy should be invited to attend the next working group meeting to answer questions Commissioners have.
- f. Youth and Education: The working group will meet with trustee Anderson tomorrow will have a report at the next meeting
- g. Urban Music/Other Cultural Activities: No update
- h. Affordable Housing and Equitable Planning Group: The working group needs members to find out what is needed in terms of affordable housing in all parts of Austin.

### 6. Old Business:

- a. Discussion on possible action for the coming year:
  - i. Commissioners Smith and Demerson would like a presentation from PARD about the Artist Access Program. EDD Acting Deputy Director Holt-Rabb is reaching out to PARD.
  - ii. Commissioner Linder is concerned about the City of Austin's African American employees and employment processes regarding leadership opportunities and temporary positions.

### 7. New Business:

- a. Budget Discussion: sponsored by Commissioners Muscadin and Anderson
- b. Soul-y Austin: Nicole Klepadlo Economic Development
- c. Mission Possible
- d. Carver & MEELJ Update



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- e. Austin Independent School District Education Dessert Norman & Simms Elementary Schools
- f. 2016 Mobility Bond Draft Proposed Corridor Construction Program – Mike Trimble, Director of the Corridor Program Office [March Meeting]
- g. Bethany Resolution
- h. CodeNext Presentation
- i. Parks and Recreation Department: Cultural Arts clarification regarding the process in each cultural center.

The February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at Britton, Durst, Howard and Spence Community Center, 1183 Chestnut Avenue

### **8. Adjournment:**

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