



African American Resources Advisory Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

The African American Resources Advisory Commission convened in a meeting on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at Britton, Durst, Howard, and Spence Community Center, 1183 Chestnut Avenue, in Austin, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 5:43 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, Daryl Horton, Marissa Jones, Nelson Lindner, Ruthie Redmond, and Gregory Smith

Absent: Tam Hawkins

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

1. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the April 3 regular meeting were approved unanimously following a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Anderson.

2. Chair's Report:

Chair Thompson reported he has focused on attending Friday meetings of NAACP.

3. Citizen Communication:

- a. Linda Thomas-Wade, president of the Sickie Cell Association of Texas, Mark Thomas Foundation spoke to educate the community about the foundation and growing concerns in the black community.

4. Presentations:

- a. Overview City of Austin CodeNext – Susana Almanza founder of the People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources [PODER] and Fred McGhee Founder and Director of the Preserve Rosewood Courts spoke about CodeNext talked about impacts that will be aggravated by CodeNext, including churches moving out of the community and away from people who live in the affordable housing units that exist in East Austin, drainage problems, impact on East Austin's historic district and environmental review programs. They spoke about their six-point People's Plan and asked commissioners to contact council members and/or speak at the May 10 City Council meeting on item #46. Commissioner Redmond moved to support the People's Plan. Greg Smith made the motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and was approved.
- b. Parks and Recreation FY19 Budget Overview – Susan Piper, Acting Division Manager and Kimberly McNeely, Acting Director presented information about the FY19 budget for community services, parks and recreations-grounds maintenance. Support services costs are increasing to cover the wage increase for temporary workers. April 13th was the deadline for recommendations, but the deadline was extended to June 8th. This is the first commission that this plan is being introduced to. **Bernadette Piper – citizen communications** I take pride in the Carver Complex-everyone should be proud of the facility. Ms. Piper is asking the Commissioners to support the bond that is coming up.



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- c. Austin Police Department Community Liaison Office – I.C.A.R.E. Community Conference and the Youth Leadership Summer Camp – Sharon Cannon, Community Liaison spoke about presenting the I.C.A.R.E. conference, implementing Asian, African American and Hispanic outreach. The conference speaker this year speaker will be Nicole Cross of KVUE news. The office also conducts Operation Blue Santa, beginning in August and continuing until January each year, works with the senior community, conducts safety fairs throughout the community, and sponsors a Youth Summer Camp, cooperating with the City Youth Program. Anyone working with the organization must have a background check through the Austin Police Department.
- d. Update on Capital Metro, Project Connect – Justin Henderson, Government Relations Coordinator and Jackie Nirenberg, Community Involvement Manager with Capital Metro presented on the additional bus routes and replacement of some routes.

5. Special Presentation: African American Community Alliance Community Update

- a. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – Nelson Lindner, President, spoke about bus transportation concerns.
- b. Austin Revitalization Authority – Greg Smith, President highlighted the event to welcome the new City Manager on May 14th at 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM co-hosted with the Urban League, HTU, the Greater Austin Black Chamber, and Six Square.
- c. Baptist Minister Union – Rev. Daryl Horton, President – nothing to report
- d. Austin Area Urban League – Quincy Dunlap, President and CEO at another meeting
- e. Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce – Tam Hawkins, President and CEO not in attendance of the meeting.

6. Working Groups:

- a. Photograph Selection for Mural: Save the Date announcements will come out for the Mural installation on May 12th around 10:30 a.m.
- b. Health and Mental Health: No update
- c. Public Safety: Discussion on the Training Academy at APD – Assistant City Manager Mark Washington addressed concerns and announced public meetings. The first is with the City Manager on May 7th, at 6:00 PM -7:00 PM at the Turner Roberts Recreation Center and the second is on May 17th with Acting Chief Brian Manley. KLRN studio will televise the meeting. Commissioners were asked if they would like to serve on the interview panel.
- d. Expansion of the Carver Library:
- e. Solar and Economic: No update
- f. Youth and Education: Commissioner Anderson announced that on May 3 she and Commissioner Carter will meet with AISD Superintendent Dr. Cruz.
- g. Urban Music/Other Cultural Activities: No update
- h. Affordable Housing and Equitable Planning Group: Commissioner Redmond is drafting a resolution and will provide it for comments.



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7. Discussion and Possible Action

8. New Business:

- a. SMBR - Disparity Study (2018) EDD is still waiting for a response
- b. Carver Museum – Quarterly Update – May Meeting
- c. Monthly presentations from Austin Revitalization Authority, Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce, Baptist Ministers Union, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and The Austin Area Urban League.
- d. Invite Acting Police Chief Brian Manley to talk about the Austin Bombings

9. Announcements:

- a. The Budget Project will be presented at the June meeting.

10. Adjournment:

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