



# African American Resources Advisory Commission

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

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The African American Resources Advisory Commission convened in a meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 in Waller Creek Building Conference Room 104. The meeting was called to order at 5:46 pm by President Horton

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

**Present:** Chair Daryl Horton, Greg Smith, Nelson Linder, Clifford Gillard, Dr. Chiquita Eugene, Miriam Conner, Cherelle Vanbrakle, Rashida Wright, Volma Overton, III, Elaina Fowler, and Elton Randel

**Absent:** Aaliyah Noble, Tam Hawkins, Ellen Sweet, and AAUL Vacant

**City Staff in Attendance:** Assistant City Manager Christopher Shorter, Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Deputy Director, Economic Development Department (EDD), Vicky Valdez Division Manager of Small Business, Joshua Robinson, Quality of Life Commission Liaison, Equity Office, Dusty McCormick, Economic and Business Development Liaison, and (EDD) Staff and Liaison Linda Hayes

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

Approval of Minutes The minutes of the January 7, 2020 regular meeting were approved unanimously following a motion by Commissioner Gillard, seconded by Commissioner Conner.

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

- a. **Essence Summer** – Sounds of Blackness dance ensemble performance for AISD at Connelly High School on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM.
- b. **Sue Carpenter** - Success By 6 Strategic Plan – Came to the Commissioners again requesting for someone be a part of the leadership team or connect them with an organization that will assist them to help the foundation and person of color

### **3. Presentations:**

- a. **Garrett Grove Austin Community College** – Discussion on the Reginal Talent Pipelines - high skills jobs are growing and for every – industrial revolution - ACC plan to assist people with middle skill jobs because middle skills jobs are high are in very much in demand.
- b. **Thurman and Torrence Thomas Co-Founder Tank Proof** – Swimming lessons to give back to the community because 79% of children in low income homes do not know how to swim and they are minorities. Want the Commissioners to assist them in reaching out to community to teach the minority children how to swim.
- c. **Jamie Castillo Art Commission Chair**- Discussion on the policy and procedures of the process in Cultural Arts and Music and question on the duties of the consultant.
- d. **Civil Rights Office Update – Candice Cooper – Public Information and Marketing Manager – Austin Code Department** – Presented Civil rights 1/21 and June 2018 to enforce civil right laws – the information is on the website for viewing, on February 10<sup>th</sup>, they will be hosting a community workshop and doing 1 on 1 interviews and providing surveys to be completed. In March will compile all information and commendations to present to council.
- e. **Austin Police Department Community Liaison Christian Mendoza** – Safe Place Initiative – LGBT Community – the only police department with this initiative in the state of Texas. Christian provided information about which businesses in Austin will commit to putting up the LGBT Safe Place Logo signs, there are about 3 majors one in the entire city.



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### 4. Working Groups – Discussion and Possible Action – Working Group Restructure

- a. Economic Opportunity and Affordability - none
- b. Mobility – Zenobia Joseph spoke Mobility pertaining to Capital Metro’s bus routes are still 60 minutes in the black community right of title of 6 Capital Metro do no serve the North Lamar area. Zenobia request for the Commissioners to write to Councilmember Harper-Madison to address your concerns about how Capital Metro is treating District 1 and have a discussion with their councilmember on the concerns of Capital Metro.
- c. Safety - None
- d. Health and Environment – none
- e. Culture and Life Long Learning Health and Environment – Discussion on Commissioners Vanbrakle’ s Commission Recommendation on the Support of Human Rights and Equity Within Austin Independent School District’s Closures and Consolidation Plan – Chair Horton suggested for recommendation to be compile to 3 paragraphs. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Fowler. Chair called for a vote and it was unanimous. Motion carried with Commissioner Vanbrakle not at the table
- f. Government That Works for All

### 6. Discussion and Possible Action –

- a. The Austin Revitalization Authority – Greg Smith, President – Reception at the Austin Revitalization Authority Office for Black Art and their Art Work – local artist
- b. The Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce – Tam Hawkins, President and CEO -No Update- Absent
- c. The Baptist Minister Union – Rev. Daryl Horton, President – Chair Horton discussed his attendance at the “The Inaugural African American Genealogy Conference” – “The Roots are as Important as the Leaves”
- b. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – Nelson Lender, President - Nelson Lender, President – Discussion on Land Development Code – Racial Profiling – Police report was sent to everyone through email – Robin Henderson was promoted to Assistant Chief – Discussion on Chief Manley to discuss with the commission the difference his report from last year to this year.
- e. The Austin Area Urban League – Quincy Dunlap, President and CEO – No Update
- f. Cultural Arts – Clifford Gillard – Attended the Music Commission Meeting



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### 7. Future Agenda Items

- Dr. Stephanie Hawley; Housing Authority of City of Austin-Rosewood Apartment Update

### 8. Announcements

**Commissioner Smith and Dr. Eugene**