



African American Resources Advisory Commission
MEETING MINUTES
September 5th, 2023

The African American Resources Advisory Commission convened in a regularly called meeting on September 5 at the City of Austin Permitting and Development Center in Austin, Texas.

Chair Elaina Fowler called the African American Resources Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance: Chair, Elaina Fowler, Dewi Smith

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance Remotely: Vice Chair, Cherelle VanBrakle, Roger Davis, Joi Harden, Serita Fontanesi, Anthony Jackson, and Daryl Horton.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Zenobia Joseph requested June 6, 2023 AARAC meeting audio be posted in its entirety. Ms. Joseph shared views on North East Austin District Plan, the history of distrust in East Austin, and housing bus discrimination.

Chase Wright with Hungry Hill requests the support of the AARAC and solidarity with the Bethany Cemetery Association.

Nykea Arnold with The Healing Project spoke on behalf of her organization and community members supporting the community work at Bethany Cemetery and requests support for organization and those affected directly from the development plans.

Victor Reed a community member shared concerns about unknown Eastside history and support saving Bethany Cemetery and requests support from community leaders in issues facing the Eastside.

Donald Dallas called for direct support for Bethany Cemetery, park equity for Springdale park and Givens. Called for a cease to the development happening next door to the Bethany Cemetery.

Alexandria Anderson with the MLK Neighborhood Association spoke in support of Bethany Cemetery Association, and issued a call for support on issues facing the neighbors needs over developers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes from the meeting of 08/02/2023 were approved on Dewi Smith's motion, and Vice Chair Cherelle Vanbrackle's motion.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

- 2 N/A

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Presentation by Pamela Benson Owens of Six Square regarding 2022-2023 usage of grant funds for the City of Austin, Six Square Cultural Arts District, and Austin-wide Black community.
4. David Gray, Assistant Director of EDD, will share updates on the progress of unhoused neighbors being moved to the Marshalling Yard site, including a report on feedback from newly housed clients.
5. Jose Lopez, with the AEDC, to brief the Commission on releasing the RFP for East 11th Street Blocks 16 and 18 within the Urban Renewal District.
6. Leah Bojo and Temaria Davis with Drenner Group Law Firm will present updates about the development plans near Bethany Cemetery.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7. Interim Police Chief update
8. City Manager update

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Eugene motioned to end the meeting at 7:46 and was seconded by Chair Fowler. The motion passed 8/0.

The minutes were approved at the November 28, 2023, special call meeting on Commissioner Smith's motion, which Commissioner Eugene seconded. 9/0

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For more information on the African American Resource Advisory Commission, please contact

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Florinda Bryant at 512-974-2715 – florinda.bryant@austintexas.gov

