



AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.
Street-Jones Building
1000 E. 11th Street, Room 400-A
Austin, Texas 78702
DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Commission Members Present

Lisa Byrd
Tyra Duncan-Hall, Ph.D.
Nelson Linder

Byron C. Marshall
Marva Overton
Jeffrey Richard

Others Present:

Melodye Foust

Joe Barnes

1. CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45pm.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Mr. Michael Emery addressed the Commission regarding a television program he is producing for local PBS station KLRU about the Juneteenth Celebration in Texas.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 3, 2007 REGULAR MEETING.

A motion to approve the Meeting Notes from the October 3, 2007 Regular Meeting was made by Commissioner Marshall and seconded by Commissioner Duncan-Hall. Vote 6-0 with Commissioner Eugene absent.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Briefing on the Urban Renewal Board from Van Jobe, Neighborhood Housing & Community Development.**

Van Jobe gave an overview of the history and responsibilities of the Urban Renewal Board stating that they are the governing body that is to ensure that the Urban Renewal Plan is carried out. The board has power of eminent domain. The board was formed in the late 1950's with membership appointed by the Mayor's office. The current board focuses on the E. 11th and E. 12th Street area.

b. Report on status of homeowner buyouts in the E. 11th & E. 12th Street area

There were thirteen households affected by homeowner buyouts in the 11th and 12th Street area in 2001-2002. The City spent \$396,000 in federal funds (HUD) to move people into new homes—some were rentals and some were purchased. The methods used are prescribed in the Uniform Relocation Act and was carried out by the City's Real Estate division of the Public Works Dept. At this time more of the original households are homeowners than originally.

c. Presentation on the African American Heritage District—Assistant City Manager Michael McDonald and Commissioner Byrd

Commissioner Byrd made the presentation in the absence of Assistant City Manager Michael McDonald.

The recommendation for a Heritage District came from the Arts, Culture and Entertainment Committee of the African American Quality of Life Initiative. The Hamilton-Dietrich House will be the anchor for the district which will have boundaries of Manor Rd., Airport Blvd., IH-35, and 11th Street. The exception is a "jug handle" to include the Huston-Tillotson Campus that goes south to 7th Street. The purpose of creating the district is to delineate the traditionally African-American area of the city, to preserve the historic buildings in the area, and to encourage tourism and unity. Having a designated district should also assist in obtaining funding to preserve the historic buildings and create educational and cultural programs.

A motion to adopt the proposed boundaries of the district as outlined and to ask the Council to explore utilizing Austin Convention and Visitor's Bureau's Historic tourism "bed tax" funding as a means of effecting restoration of historic sites to help create the Heritage District was made by Commissioner Marshall and seconded by Commissioner Duncan-Hall. Vote 6-0 with Commissioner Eugene absent.

- d. Discussion and possible action on setting agenda items for future meetings, including non-substantive housekeeping matters (such as meeting dates, potential topics, and information and research requests for staff) that are related to the setting of a future agenda.**

The Commissioners decided to use their next regular meeting date (December 5th) to hold their retreat and the meeting will begin at 4:30 at the regular location of the Street-Jones Building.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm.

For additional information, contact Melodye Foust, Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office, (512)974-7819.