



**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, July 11, 2012**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sherry Cherry  
Clifford Gillard

Wayne Cook  
Greg Smith

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jason Alexander  
Melodye Foust  
Rosy Jalifi

Dusty McCormick  
Joy Miller  
Vicky Valdez

**CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Commissioner Smith.

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

There were no speakers.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 6, 2012 REGULAR MEETING.**

The minutes stand as presented.

**3. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **Report from Working Group concerning information request to Austin Convention and Visitor's Bureau**

Without objection, this item was postponed until the next meeting.

- b. **Reports from Commissioners on attending meetings of other City Boards and Commissions**

Commissioners Smith & Cherry attended the City Council Meeting. Commissioner Smith attended the Urban Renewal Board Meeting.

**4. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Presentation on the Khan Academy (Struan Vaz)**

Information on the Khan Academy method of learning was presented by Mr. Vaz. This method involves free self-paced online learning, which is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Commission would like more information on how this program is being used by Austin Independent School District and how successful the program is with different age groups.

- b. **Presentation on programs and services of the Small Business Development Program (Vicky Valdez, Small Business Administrator, Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office)**

Ms. Valdez presented information on the various programs of the Small Business Development Program, including information on their outreach efforts and events that connect business owners with professionals and lending organizations. SBDP attends events (business fairs, etc) in the community and would also be glad to provide classes in a location convenient to the community.

**c. Presentation on Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office's Family Business Loan Program (Rosy Jalifi, Assistant Director, Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office)**

Ms. Jalifi outlined the proposed program for the Commission, stating that access to capital is one of the top two challenges faced by small businesses. The City portion of the loan to the borrower will be for working capital. Since this program is based on funding from the US HUD Section 108, the Commission has had a concern about the debt service for this funding. Ms. Jalifi assured the Commissioners that the debt service for this funding would come from EGRSO's department budget, not Community Development Block Grants.

**d. Set agenda items for future meetings, including non-substantive housekeeping matters (such as meeting dates, potential topics, and information and research requests for staff)**

The Commission would like to see a follow-up presentation from Rev. Collins on health issues and a follow-up on information requested on the Khan Academy for the August meeting as well as the postponed report from the Working Group on the information request to the Austin Convention & Visitor's Bureau.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.