



AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

July 10, 2013

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nelson Linder, Chair
Sherry Cherry
Wayne Cook
Dr. Chiquita Eugene

Clifford Gillard
Daryl Horton
Greg Smith, Vice Chair

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Barnes
Melodye Foust
Sara Hensley
Shannon Jones

Dusty McCormick
Kimberly McNeeley
Jeffrey Travillion

CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by Commissioner Smith.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

There were no speakers.

THERE MAY BE DISCUSSION ON ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

2. Approval of the minutes from the June 5, 2013 Regular Meeting

With noted corrections, the minutes stand as presented.

3. Updates from Working Groups

a. Health and Mental Health

Commissioner Smith stated that the Working Group had met with Stephanie Hayden, Health & Human Services Department, and should be able to present their recommendations at the August Commission meeting.

b. Small Business/Parking Issues on E. 11th & E. 12th Streets

Commissioner Gillard stated that the Working Group had met with City staff members from various departments to discuss the issues and possible ways to address them. The group will meet again next week. Commissioner Gillard will also work on getting input from other small business owners along E. 11th St & E. 12th St.

4. Presentation: Renovations of Bartholomew Pool (Sara Hensley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department)

Ms. Sara Hensley and Ms. Kimberly McNeeley from the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) presented the current plans for the renovation/reconstruction of Bartholomew Pool, noting that issues had come up after the project began. The issues included finding asbestos on the site as well as ground water. These issues have been addressed, but led to a longer timeframe for construction and changes to the design. The PARD staff has worked to keep the community informed and provide transportation to Givens Pool for residents that would normally use Bartholomew Pool, which is currently scheduled to reopen next spring.

Mr. Phil Burns spoke concerning discrepancies in reported costs and funding for the project stating that the pool is now planned to be 40% smaller than the original plan. Mr. Burns also asked for an audit of the program by the Office of the City Auditor.

Ms. Arlene Youngblood also spoke concerning improvements made to Givens Pool, thanking the PARD staff for the improvements. Givens Pool is being used for residents who would normally patronize Bartholomew Pool.

5. Presentation: Reconnect Austin—Rebuilding Interstate 35 through Downtown Austin (Heyden Walker, Planner, Black + Vernooy Architecture and Urban Design)

Ms. Heyden Walker with Black + Vernooy Architecture and Urban Design, presented one of the plans for the reconstruction of Interstate 35 through downtown Austin. This plan would “depress” the traffic lanes below ground and then “cap” the lanes creating a tunnel for the traffic lanes. This would allow the reconnection of the east and west portions of Austin and also allow for development of some of the land currently occupied by access road.

6. Discussion and Possible Action: Completion of photo selection for mural at the African American Cultural & Heritage Center

Without objection this item was postponed.

7. Discussion: How to work effectively as a Commission and as a Commissioner

The Commissioners discussed how to work more effectively including suggestions to develop better relationships with City Council Members, which has been helpful to some Commissioners. Also suggested was inviting more citizens to bring their issues forward to the Commission during Citizen Communication.

8. 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 August agenda will include presentations on the Colony Park Master Planning effort, the Rosewood Court Master Plan, postponed discussion and possible action on photo selection, and a presentation from MEEELJ, Inc. that may include a budget recommendation.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.