



African American Resources Advisory Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

The African American Resources Advisory Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at Street-Jones Building, Room 400 in Austin, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 5:40 by Chair Daryl Horton.

African American Resources Advisory Commissioners:

Present: LaTisha Anderson, Jessica Faith Carter, Chair Daryl Horton, Vice Chair Chiquita Eugene, Aaron Demerson, Tam Hawkins, Clifford Gillard, Marissa Jones, Michael Lee, Nelson Linder, Kenneth Thompson, Aaron Whatley, and Greg Smith.

Absent: Lisa Fritsch, and Ruthie Redmond.

City Staff in Attendance: Economic Development Department (EDD) Assistant Director Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Assistant City Manager Mark Washington, EDD Small Business Program Manager Vicky Valdez, Council Member Ora Houston, Council Executive Secretary Andre Ewing, and EDD Development Services Administrator and Liaison Linda Hayes.

1. Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes of the September 14, 2016 meeting were approved as corrected following a motion from Commissioner Greg Smith which was seconded by Commissioner Kenneth Thompson.

2. Citizen Communication:

Mr. Amin Simms from SXSW Recruitment presented the commission about SXSW's Platinum Opportunity program, a program providing approximately 15 college students from HTU, ACC and UT an opportunity to win a platinum badge to SXSW.

3. Presentations:

- a. Austin City Manager Marc Ott discussed Austin's economy, business development in East Austin and the city's growth during his tenure as City Manager. Following the presentation, the Commission thanked Mr. Ott for his many accomplishments while in office.
- b. Assistant Police Chief Frank Dixon presented on Community Policing. He discussed the Town Hall meetings to be held in the community and asked Commissioners to attend them. He also requested for the commission to attend APD Citizens Police Academy. He reported that APD would like to have community discussions at Huston Tillotson University and that APD has expanded its recruiting to more military bases and black colleges.
- c. Teddy McDaniel, President and CEO of the Austin Area Urban League, presented on Urban League programs and advocacies. AAUL partners with 11 other programs in Austin to deliver the Workforce and Education Readiness Continuum. The program trains people for jobs in specific occupations, provides financial literacy education, and works to place clients in jobs that will be sustainable for their families. Pathway to a Career program is a six-week



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program for re-entry and non-re-entry clients. Other programs, funded by HUD and housing bonds, provide home repairs to allow people who own their homes to remain in them.

4. Old Business:

FY17 Budget Approval Update: Assistant City Manager Mark Washington provided an update on the City Council's approved budget, including allocations provided for African American, Hispanic and Asian quality of life initiatives.

5. New Business:

- a. The 2017 calendar was approved as corrected following a motion by Commissioner Lee second by Commissioner Anderson.
- b. Sylnovia Holt-Rabb informed the Commission that staff will include all the working groups on the Commission calendar and reminded members that the three-year plan they developed last December may need to be updated.

6. Future Agenda Items:

- a. Mr. Sims of SXSW
- b. Tom Noonan, President and CEO of the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau
- c. Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo
- d. New City of Austin Equity Officer Brion Oaks
- e. Google Executive
- f. Huston Tillotson University and University of Texas

7. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned following a motion by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner Anderson.