



# African American Resources Advisory Commission

## MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

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The African American Resources Advisory Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at Street-Jones Building, Room 400 in Austin, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 5:44 by Chair Daryl Horton.

### **African American Resources Advisory Commissioners:**

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

**Absent:** Tam Hawkins, Ruthie Redmond, and Aaron Demerson.

**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, and EDD Development Services Administrator and Liaison Linda Hayes.

### **1. Approval of the Minutes:**

The minutes of the November 8, 2016 meeting were approved as corrected following a motion from Commissioner Greg Smith which was seconded by Commissioner Clifford Gillard.

### **2. Citizen Communication:**

None.

### **3. Presentations:**

- a. Candice Cooper presentation update from the meeting in March 2016 - presented 5 concerns – membership City council treatment of African Americans. Lack of attendance from the Black History program – Black Male Employees – departmental culture- cultural diversity what happen at different department. Sent the letter to the city council about the AAHN concerns, sent the letter to KVUE and interviewed Candice about the letter sent to the council the Mayor was only person address the letter. Betty Manor from the City of Austin Human Resource Department address the concern address the workforce concerns that Candice spoke on. HRD is trying to fix the concerns with the workforce. NFABA and the President Dusty McCormick to assist with opportunism for the NAAHN concerns sent a formal invitation to the Black History Program by providing greetings and keynote speaker Metro Houston Police Chief Boomers. Candice invited the commission to the event. In addition they recognize the Black Men for the City of Austin.



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- b. Amin Simms of SXSW presented Platinum opportunity is an outreach to the students it gives them an opportunity to get a badge by completing an essay. He reaches out to HTU and UT to get them to participate in the process. He presented about the volunteer program to assist with SXSW. Everyone has to register.
- c. Kevin Johns and Dusty McCormick of EDD – Einstein Project presentation wanted to share projects about the Einstein Project granted it has not been approved. Looking at ways improved to bring Austin out of poverty and bring them to high level jobs. Trying to break the cycle poverty in Austin,
- d. Mark Washington update the commission on a follow up presentation council will make decision on assist the city service on our next events. Hiring the next city manager is on the city council agenda for the process. Council wants to have a process to make the decision on if the candidates have the same background as Mark Ott or a nontraditional background.
- e. Chair Horton - Commission Linder update mayor's task force presentation on implement bias has it affect the community. Presentation from CAN talk the statics and housing on what the city of Austin look like right now

#### 4. Working Groups

- a. Small Business/Parking Issues on E. 11<sup>th</sup> & E. 12<sup>th</sup> Streets - None
- b. Photograph Selection for Mural – Dr. Eugene provide a mural report
- c. Health and Mental Health - None
- d. Public Safety - None
- e. Expansion of Carver Library - None
- f. Solar and Economic - None
- g. Youth and Education- AISD tour with CODA
- h. Urban Music/Other Cultural Activities - Urban Festival update with the budget with the fees - request on what fees are waive for other events – request Mark Washington to answer question pertaining to the Urban Festival
- i. Changes to By-Laws and Commission Membership – Will information in the January meeting
- j. Feasibility ~ Budget Recommendations - None

#### 5. Old Business:

*None*

#### 6. New Business:

*None*

#### 6. Future Agenda Items:



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- a. Austin Convention and Visitor's Bureau – Tom Noonan, President and CEO (February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017)
- b. Urban Co-Lab
- c. Soul-y Austin
- d. Capital Metro staff concerning bus stop on 12<sup>th</sup> and Chicon
- e. Staff to Speak on the Urban Festival Concerns

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