



# African American Resources Advisory Commission

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

The African American Resources Advisory Commission convened in a meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at the Britton, Durst, Howard and Spence Community Center, 1183 Chestnut Avenue in Austin, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 5:37 by Chair Daryl Horton.

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

**Present:** Chair Daryl Horton, Vice Chair Chiquita Eugene, LaTisha Anderson, Jessica Faith Carter, Miriam Conner, Aaron Demerson, Clifford Gillard, Marissa Jones, Nelson Lindner, Farah Muscadin, Ruthie Redmond, and Kenneth Thompson, Gregory Smith

**Absent:** Tam Hawkins

**City Staff in Attendance:** Economic Development Department (EDD) Assistant Director Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Chief Information Officer Stephen Elkins, EDD Development Services Administrator and Liaison Linda Hayes and Equity Officer Brion Oaks.

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

The minutes of the June 6 regular meeting were approved unanimously as corrected (Ruthie Redmond was present) following a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Muscadin.

### **2. Citizen Communication: None**

### **3. Presentation:**

- a. Deena Estrada from the City Clerk's Office gave a refresher presentation on the ethics responsibilities of members of City of Austin Boards and Commissions with a focus on conflicts of interest. She provided information about recusals, including when recusing is required. Commissioners recuse by signing the sign-in sheet, documenting the item on which they are recusing. The Commissioner must also publicly state, from the dais, the nature and extent of the conflict so that the nature and extent of the conflict is recorded in the minutes. A recusing Commissioner is not required to leave the dais, but leaving the dais is highly recommended since it emphasizes that the Commissioner is not participating. A recusing Commissioner may not participate in any discussion of the item on or off the dais, and may not vote on the item. Ms. Estrada also spoke about abstaining from an item. The Commissioner abstains by signing the sign-in sheet, documenting the item from which they are abstaining. An abstaining Commissioner may participate in discussion but is required to publicly disclose their abstention and refrain from voting.
- b. Suzanne Piper, PARD Acting Financial Service Division Manager, spoke about the FY 2018 budget, specific to PARD and relative to the City's financial forecast. She noted changes from PARD's 2017 budget.
- c. Sylnovia Holt-Rabb introduced Meghan Wells and T. J. Owens from EDD's Cultural Arts Division. Mr. Owens is the new manager of the African American Cultural Heritage Facility, which was recently transferred to the Economic Development Department. He spoke about his plans for the Facility. Ms. Holt-Rabb then provided a history regarding the Facility, and an update on the FY 16 Year-End Report and the FY 17 accomplishments.



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### 4. Working Groups:

- a. **Small Business/Parking Issues on E. 11<sup>th</sup> & E. 12<sup>th</sup> Streets:** No update
- b. **Mural:** The working group will work with EDD on the Grand Re-Opening. Chair Horton asked Commissioners to get the word out that the Commission is still honoring members of the community at the mural and is still accepting nominations for the mural at every Commission meeting.
- c. **Health and Mental Health:** No update
- d. **Public Safety:** Next Thursday at ACC Eastview campus there will be a conversation on police misconduct with DA Margaret Moore, County Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeff Travillion and City Council Member Delia Garza. Dr. Eugene suggested Commissioners ask to serve on the Travis County Grand Jury. Commissioner Muscadin reported on her ride-along with APD out of the East Sub Station on Springdale Road. A motion made by Commissioner Gillard and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to make a recommendation to City Council members identifying issues to be included in the APD contract being negotiated was approved unanimously. Each Commissioner is asked to suggest items to be included in the recommendation by July 14 to Linda Hayes to be forwarded to the Working Group.
- e. **Expansion of Carver Museum:** No update
- f. **Solar and Economic:** After meeting with other community organizations in Austin that have common goals the working group presented a resolution to provide funding to low-income people and people of color to help them install solar technology for their single-family and multi-family homes. The motion to accept the working group's recommendation, with input from Commissioners, was made by Commissioner Gillard, seconded by Commissioner Anderson and was approved unanimously. Commissioners are asked to provide any recommended edits to the working group's resolution by Friday July 14.
- g. **Youth and Education:** No update
- h. **Urban Music/Other Cultural Activities:** Austin Hip Hop Urban Music Summit was a success.
- i. **Feasibility and Budget Recommendations:** The budget recommendation approved last month was sent to City Council members and to interim City Manager.

### 5. Old Business:

- a. FY-18 Budget Review and Recommendations: No update

### 6. New Business:

- a. Commissioner Conner proposed a black artist registry per district per medium. Ms. Holt-Rabb will explore whether EDD's Cultural Asset Mapping Project and database of artists already provide this information.



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### 7. Commission and Staff Update:

- a. Chair Update: Following her presentation to the Commission last month, Chair Horton was asked by the Chair of the Asian American Cultural Center for a letter of support for their effort to expand services to Asian senior citizens in Austin. Commissioner Linder's motion to provide the letter of support was seconded by Commissioner Demerson and was approved unanimously.
- b. Elections for Chair and Vice Chair: Commissioner Thompson was elected unanimously to serve as Chair following his nomination by Commissioner Anderson, which was seconded by Commissioner Gillard. Commissioner Eugene was elected unanimously to continue serving as Vice Chair following her nomination by Commissioner Demerson which was seconded by Commissioner Redmond. Incoming Chair Thompson and Commissioner Linder made statements expressing gratitude to outgoing Chair Horton for his service and his commitment to improving quality of life for African Americans in Austin.

### 8. Future Agenda Items:

- a. Legislative update from Government Relations Office regarding upcoming legislation
- b. Transportation Department presentation regarding Transportation Bond Opportunities
- c. Carol Hadnot Disparity Study
- d. Parkland Task Force
- e. AISD
- f. David Colligan – Global Business Recruitment & Expansion Manager Economic Development [September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting]
- g. A group of citizens is working to oppose a development [Bethany Christian Church] want the African American Resource Advisory Commission to develop a resolution
- h. Police Monitor – interim Devon Desai
- i. Ed Van Enoo, City of Austin Chief Deputy Budget Officer

### 9. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned following a motion by Commissioner Redmond that was seconded by Commissioner Thompson.