



## African American Resources Advisory Commission MINUTES

MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, July 13, 2016

The African American Resources Advisory Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at Street-Jones Building, Room 400 in Austin, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Chair Horton.

### African American Resources Advisory Commissioners:

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

**City Staff in Attendance:** Economic Development Department (EDD) Assistant Director Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, EDD Small Business Program Manager Vicky Valdez, EDD Economic and Business Development Liaison Dusty McCormick, Interim Assistant City Manager Mark Washington, EDD Development Services Administrator and Liaison Linda Hayes.

**Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the May 4, 2016 meetings were approved.

**Citizen Communication:** No Citizen Communication

### Presentations:

1. **Huston Tillotson – Dr. Burnet** presented the overall mission and vision of the university to become the hub of East Austin. Dr. Burnet's VISION is to build a Health and Fitness Center with a public/private partnership in the hope that the City of Austin will be the public part of the partnership in order to help with the VISION. Chair Horton informed the commission support in the VISION.
2. Dr. Kazique Prince presented on President Obama's *My Brother's Keeper* initiative, which focuses on young African American and Latino men. AISD and UT are already apart of the initiative and most recently the City of Austin and Travis County have also

joined. In late April 2017 My Brother's Keeper will host the Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color (COSEBOC) convention in Austin.

3. Building Austin Creative Capacity Needs Assessment: Meghan Wells, City of Austin **Cultural Arts Division** Manager gave a presentation on the arts assessment.
4. Stephanie Bergara City of **Austin Music Division Program Coordinator**, presented on the music assessment and on the Austin Music Census focus groups.

### **Working Groups;**

1. **By-Laws update:** A motion was made by Commissioner Kenneth Thompson to create a working group to update the Commission's By-Laws and seconded by Commissioner Clifford Gillard. The motion was approved by a 12-0 vote. Commissioners Aaron Demerson and Michael Lee volunteered to lead the working group for the by-laws update.
2. Feasibility Budget Working Group: Mr. Washington suggested the working group revise the draft spreadsheet and identify three tiers of categories. There was a motion on the budget request regarding Homer Hill on the Urban Fest no fees plus \$26,000.00 in sponsorship for the Urban Fest. Motion to approve the budget recommendation by Kenneth Thompson, seconded by LaTisha Anderson. Kenneth Thompson motioned to resend his initial motion, second by LaTisha Anderson. The final motion was made again with modifications to items 6, 15, 20 motion seconded by LaTisha Anderson with a 12-0 vote motion passed. Motion made by Mr. Lee to give the feasibility budget spreadsheet back to the working group to create the 3 tier format, the motion was seconded by Clifford Gillard on a 12-0 vote motion passed.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Revise Regular Meetings Schedule: Commissioner Kenneth Thompson moved to change the regular monthly Commission meetings to the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month; the motion was not seconded. Vice Chair Eugene then suggested holding regular meetings the first Monday of each month. Commissioner Kenneth Thompson moved to change the regular monthly Commission meetings to the first Monday of each month, beginning in October 2016; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Aaron Whatley and approved on a 12-0 vote.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Clifford Gillard recommended that the Commission host a community meeting to discuss police violence, police shootings and the Black Lives Matter movement at a special called meeting to which the Chief of Police, Mayor, and City Manager be invited to address public concern.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M. by Vice Chair Chiquita Eugene.