



# African American Resources Advisory Commission

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

The African American Resources Advisory Commission convened in a meeting on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at Britton, Durst, Howard, and Spence Community Center, 1183 Chestnut Avenue, in Austin, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 5:37 by Chair Kenneth Thompson.

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

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

**Absent:** Aaron Demerson

**City Staff in Attendance:** Economic Development Department (EDD) Acting Deputy Director Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Assistant City Manager Mark Washington, Brion Oaks Chief Equity Officer Vicky Valdez Division Manager EDD Small Business Program and EDD Development Services Administrator and Liaison Linda Hayes.

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

The minutes of the February 6 regular meeting were approved unanimously following a motion by Commissioner Conner, seconded by Commissioner Carter.

### **2. Chair's Report:**

Chair Thompson reported he has focused in the community on the value of the Carver.

### **3. Citizen Communication:**

- a. Jacqueline Miller with Tx Council of Family Violence spoke to network with the commission to advocate for children to remain with a non-offending parent.
- b. Raul Alvarez Executive Director of the Community Advancement Network (CAN) distributed the CAN Dashboard and described the CAN organization and its purpose. CAN's Dashboard also includes an equity analysis and a child poverty report. Mr. Alvarez would like to engage with the Commission.
- c. Fred McGhee, founder and Director of Preserve Rosewood spoke about funding inequities related to the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT). Budget recommendation for funding historic preservation is not equitable and does not include money for Rosewood Courts or the Montopolis Negro School. ACM Washington will follow up with Mr. McGee about the staff recommendation and Mr. McGhee will be invited to a future Commission meeting.

### **4. Presentations:**

- a. Austin Independent School District, Sims and Norman Elementary School Overview – Dr. Paul Cruz, AISD Superintendent, and Gilbert Hicks, Associate Superintendent spoke about Norman and Sims Elementary Schools. \$25 million of the bond that was approved by the voters will be used to build a state of the art school at either Norman or Sims, along with 16 other state of the art schools, all of which will provide new learning opportunities. Currently engaging with parents and staff at Norman and Sims and researching to determine which school to modernize. Phase 2 will relocate students for 2 years to the other site while the new school is being modernized, then the students would return to their home school. Targeted utilization plan is needed at Norman and



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Sims to increase enrollment to 500 kids at Norman and 500 kids at Sims. Currently many students live in the assignment area but don't attend Norman or Sims. Other criteria such as community, facility condition and educational suitability will influence decisions. Mr. Hicks will return to discuss equity questions.

- b. 2016 Mobility Bond Draft Proposed Corridor Construction Program – Mike Trimble, Director of the Corridor Program Office, spoke about proposed corridor improvements, including how these were prioritized. This information is available at [www.austintexas.gov/CorridorMobility](http://www.austintexas.gov/CorridorMobility). Staff is looking at funding opportunities to close the gap between the recommendations, which include mobility improvements for all of the corridors. The recommendation will be at City Council on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- c. The City's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department (NHCD)-Angle Sommers, Senior Research Analyst, and Will Thomas with Austin Public Health, talked about the 5-year Consolidated Plan and one-year Action Plans required for HUD funding. They talked about the process, City of Austin programs, and past HUD funding received by the City. They are currently in planning phase of developing the Action Plan for FY 2018-19, and are reaching out to the community for input regarding community needs.

### 5. Special Presentation: African American Community Alliance Community Update

- a. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – Nelson Lindner, President, presented information from the 1968 and 2004 assessments, including the issues that were called out in those reports and the resulting recommendations, which have not been implemented.
- b. Austin Revitalization Authority – Greg Smith, President highlighted the annual ARA Board Appreciation dinner February 21<sup>st</sup> that honored Augustine Williams, owner of the Style Rite Salon, who retired about six months ago at the age of 91. Also 2018 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Fair Housing Act by President Johnson. ARA is working with the City of Austin to host a celebration as part of the fair housing summit that will be held in Austin.
- c. Baptist Minister Union – Rev. Daryl Horton, President talked about: (1) the United Negro College Fund Fundraising Director Jeff Shaw's establishment of a relationship with Austin, which will benefit HTC. (2) Capital Metro: Yannis Banks presented about changes which will happen in June. – (3) He recently attended diversity training with five City Council members where he learned that the City will acknowledge the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of passage of the Austin city plan that segregated Austin by race. (4) AISD was awarded \$3.5 million restorative justice practices grant, but is now excluding UT and community partners who participated in writing the grant.
- d. Austin Area Urban League – Quincy Dunlap, President and CEO discussed programmatic priorities including AISD's graduation rate and the high school to college transition. The Project Ready program will address this transition and work directly with existing workforce development programs. He also discussed the Guild Program and efforts to get information into the community about Alzheimer's disease and dementia and about dealing with trauma, regardless of the source of the trauma such as crime or police brutality.
- e. Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce – Tam Hawkins, President and CEO was not present.



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### 6. Working Groups:

- a. Photograph Selection for Mural: Save the Date announcements will come out for the Mural installation on May 12<sup>th</sup> around 10:30 a.m.
- b. Health and Mental Health: No update
- c. Public Safety: No update
- d. Expansion of the Carver Library: Advocated for requesting \$10 million or \$15 million
- e. Solar and Economic: No update
- f. Youth and Education: Commissioner Anderson announced that Austin Justice Coalition is holding a town hall tomorrow at the Highland Business Center to discuss police treatment of black youth.
- g. Urban Music/Other Cultural Activities: Jazz Festival at Doris Miller on March 9; SXSW this weekend and next weekend; Urban Fest before next Commission meeting.
- h. Affordable Housing and Equitable Planning Group: Commissioner Redmond spoke with Farmer City and Solutions about CodeNEXT and will provide information at the next meeting.

### 7. Old Business:

- a. Budget discussion and recommendations: Staff will give an overview at the next meeting
- b. Dell Medical School Tour in March
- c. Mini-Grant Process – Brion Oaks has been tasked with developing a mini grant process around Quality of Life. A representative is needed to work with representatives from the other QoL Commissions to determine how to share \$75,000 between the 4 QoL Commissions. Commissioner Jones nominated Commissioner Smith; the nomination was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Commissioner Carter nominated Commissioner Jones; the nomination was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Both commissioners were elected unanimously.

### 8. New Business:

- a. SMBR - Disparity Study (2018) EDD is still waiting for a response
- b. Carver Museum – Quarterly Update – May Meeting
- c. Monthly presentations from Austin Revitalization Authority, Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce, Baptist Ministers Union, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and The Austin Area Urban League.
- d. Discussion of the rationale and update on a proposed charter amendment to have City Attorney and other officials report to City Council rather than to the City Manager sponsored by Commissioners Smith and Anderson

### 9. Announcements:

- a. Commissioner Anderson plans to run for District 1 trustee

### 10. Adjournment:

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