

**AFRICAN AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
July 27, 2023 at 6:00 PM  
2600 HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD, Room 215  
HOLLYWOOD, FL**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Bennie Barnes  
Richert Cardenas  
Richard Louis  
Allain McGuffie  
Octavia Mills  
Joanne Taitt  
Nila Williams

**Members Absent:** Joann Fullington-Reese  
Henry Graham  
Jacqueline Grant  
Djenaba Gregory-Faal

**Staff Liaisons:** Alison Saffold, City Manager's Office, Civic Affairs  
Administrator  
Merry Kaye, Community Development, Administrative  
Assistant

**Guests:** Nathalie Joyner, Parks and Recreation and Cultural Arts,  
Program and Events Manager  
Nadine McCrea, Community Enhancement Collaboration  
Basil Phillips, Attucks Alumni Association

**Meeting began with official call to order at 6:30 PM.**

**I. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Introductions and Welcome**

The meeting began with all the continuing members and all the newly joined members introduced themselves and gave a brief synopsis of their lives and why they wanted to join the African American Advisory Committee.

Then the guests introduced themselves and why they were present at the meeting.

**B. Discussion of 2023-2024 Goals**

Ms. Saffold asked the Council which events they wanted to focus on for the upcoming year.

Ms. Saffold read from the Annual Report the goals outlined for the following year. The goals included the Financial Literacy Event, The Black History Month Event, and the Juneteenth Event.

Dr. Louis explained the Financial Literacy Event that was held in 2021. He said that the Council Members were passionate about informing the public, families, teens, and singles about making healthy financial goals and habits. Topics included insurance and its importance, looking towards retirement, and teens understanding the money aspect of attending college.

*\*\*Ms. Mills motioned for the African American Advisory Council to focus on the Black History Month Event, the Juneteenth Event, and be more impactful by partnering with organizations within the City and their activities. Mr. McGuffie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.\*\**

### **C. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Ms. Saffold indicated that the current Chair and Vice Chair are not present due to the inclement weather. The members present were not interested in either position.

*\*\*Ms. Williams motioned that the vote for Chair and Vice Chair be tabled until the next meeting. Mr. McGuffie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.\*\**

## **II. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Juneteenth Celebration Debrief**

Communication, Marketing, and Economic Development (CMED) put together a video of the event. The video was shared with the council, with Ms. Saffold agreeing to send the video to all members.

Ms. Saffold expressed to Ms. Joyner that maybe the 2024 event would include a different committee. However, the AAAC did such a wonderful job at putting together the event, it has been requested that they also plan the 2024 event. With that said, Ms. Saffold opened the floor to anyone that attended for comments, suggestions, and ideas for the next event.

Ms. Saffold started with her impressions. She thought the program was great and the performers were engaging. However, attendance seemed low due to the fact that ArtsPark is such a large, open-air area the 300 people there seemed small. Her suggestions included changing start time to later due to the heat and work schedules precluded attendance; as well as, moving it to a weekend evening.

Ms. Williams agreed that the start time was too early and the weather, the heat specifically, kept the crowds away. Her favorite part was the AAAC Members judging the children's artwork.

Mr. Cardenas agreed with the other comments about the time and day of the week.

Ms. Joyner indicated that the Juneteenth event was planned in conjunction with the Friday night Movie in the Park. Therefore, when the AAAC was asked to assist, the date and time was already planned. The movie typically draws a great crowd. However, with the current weather, heat and afternoon thunderstorms, the crowd was thinner than normal. She also indicated that Friday was decided on due to the

fact that other cities and groups also planned events over the weekend and/or on Monday.

Ms. Saffold had invited Ms. McCrea to this meeting specifically for the Juneteenth discussion. Ms. Saffold thought that the event did not draw from the Washington Park and the Liberia areas into ArtsPark. She was hoping Ms. McCrea could assist with drawing from these areas next year.

Ms. McCrea did not attend the event due to family obligations. However, from everything she heard after the event, she believes that the council should keep doing what they are doing. The numbers will only double next year and once the word spreads, then more and more people will join.

In addition, Ms. McCrea stated that she attended the Juneteenth Parade that was coordinated by Ms. Georgette. Ms. McCrea shared that she thought the parade was great, and she doesn't think the two events (the City's celebration and the parade) need to be combined. She prefers the events to be separate and even more Juneteenth celebrations planned throughout the weekend.

### **III. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

- Mr. Philips spoke about the Attucks Alumni and Liberia Civic Association 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He spoke about a program they will be introducing called the S.T.A.R. Project. S.T.A.R. stands for Students Taking Active Responsibility. It is a training program that will deal with construction, warehouse, and other areas where people leaving the criminal justice system need to find employment.
- Ms. Saffold advised the Council the August meeting will include the Sunshine Law Presentation by Deputy City Attorney Damaris Henlon.
- Ms. Saffold also reminded the Council members of the attendance policy. Per the City Clerk, missing four meetings, consecutive or not, is grounds for being removed from the board. And per the guidelines, there is no allowance for excused absences.
- Ms. Saffold referenced the handout that listed the meeting dates that were confirmed and those that were pending a vote. Meeting dates through November were set. The December meeting was open for discussion as were other meeting dates during the year. It was decided that discussion of calendar of meetings would be discussed at the next meeting.

### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25PM.