

**AFRICAN AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
June 7, 2016**

The African American Advisory Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. Hollywood City Hall Room 421.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**ROLL CALL –**

<b>Member</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Linda Hill Anderson	X	
Mary Mites Campbell	X	
Henry Graham	X	
Heather Mahoney	X	
James Marshall	X	
Samuel Prime	X	
David Rosa Jr.	X	
Sheila Desir		X
John Houmes		X

<b>STAFF PERSON</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>
Anthony Grisby	Community and Economic Development

**I. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Staff Liaison – the Liaison presented on the importance of street names, the points of controversy concerning Forrest, Lee, and Hood Streets, the standard criteria for street re-naming, the flexibilities offered the City Commission on Street re-naming, the negative impacts to residents and businesses abutting the streets and examples of standard cost borne by the applicant/petitioner in order rename a street.

b. The Chair then invited comments from non-member attendees as follows:

Summary of pertinent comments from John Lannert 1551 Seagrape Way:

- Nathan B. Forrest did not found the Ku Klux Klan but was a Grand Wizard. It was bad for his business and he got out and shut it down, Forrest is very enigmatic and can't get a handle on him. Later, in 1875 he gave a speech on racial reconciliation to the International [Independent] Association of Pole-Bearers a forerunner of the NAACP where he totally recants everything. I'm not defending him you can't overlook Fort Pillow and you can't overlook the fact that he was a slave trader before the civil war. Forty (40) of his slaves went with him to the Civil War and 20 came back to work with him when he had a plantation. Mr. Young named the streets that were on the original Liberia Plat. The council should consider instead of changing one name, changing the name of the streets

throughout Liberia (only) as originally platted, thereby, eliminating all military references and creating an individual identity for Liberia.

Summary of pertinent comments from Andre Brown 2316 Mayo Street:

- If a street name was named in honor of a Nazi would not the Jewish community have this sign removed? Forrest was in the Ku Klux Klan and should not be honored. Let's put someone on the sign that did something for the people instead of against the people

Summary of pertinent comments from Ben Israel 3881 N. 41st Court

- I started on this about ten years ago when I was a member of the AAAC and nobody cared. "Power concedes nothing without demand". A people will suffer injustice until they oppose it. This is not about color. Forrest was vicious to his own people even his commanding general. Forrest did not disband the Ku Klux Klan. Forrest killed more white people than he did black people. This is not about canvassing the people on Forrest Street. Any American who believes in American values has the right to oppose this. The Civil war wasn't fought on Forrest Street and Forrest didn't fight in Florida. This is not a matter of race it's a matter of morality. It's about time we understand what the needs are and stand up and do what we have to do.

Summary of pertinent comments from Reverend Michael Anderson 2254 Douglas Street

- Joseph Young had in mind, at a volatile time in history, that for people who were viewed as subservient, he would name streets with intent to inspire them. When we look at these three streets they run from the "Hot" tourist beach all the way to the west side of our city. Blacks are sprinkled throughout and Blacks spend money on the beach. However, in our city, there is a bust of Dr. Martin Luther King and a Community Center for Dr. Martin Luther King, but there is nothing else that acknowledges the thousands of Blacks that live in Hollywood. The Founder intended to do that but somehow it's erased. We can do better as a City; the will to do it is what's at question. If there was a Hitler Street going through Emerald Hills, I would cancel appointments to stand with the people because I could feel there pain. If anyone [from in or out of town] comes forward to be so vehemently passionate about celebrating Nathan Bedford Forrest's name, Hollywood has to answer the question as to whether we are going to be equally as passionate not to celebrate it. From the [street naming] criterion that is laid out, if Forrest's name came up today there would be no way that it would be approved.

Summary of pertinent comments from Tim Burton 2228 Evans Street

- Hollywood is better than this. We have a name that's worth protecting. We understand the process and how it affects people from one end of the city to the other. If we sit here as a city and say it's OK, it's only a street name, it not only demeans people that drive by or live on the street it demeans the City which holds great value. If we are going to be a City of values and expect tourism to continue to be one of our economic engines then we need to realize that things affect people and when things affect people it affects their dollars and mindset. We need to affect Hollywood first. Don't let outsiders come in and do what we should do ourselves.

1<sup>st</sup> Action taken - There was a 6-1 vote to rename Forrest Street. The dissenting vote was not in against renaming Forrest but wanted all of the Streets in question renamed. There was a 5-2 vote to rename all of the streets in question. The two dissenting votes felt that the renaming of Forrest Street citywide alone would be sufficient at this time. Therefore, AAAC were in unanimous agreement to recommend renaming Forrest Street, however, voted 5-2 to rename Forrest, Lee, and Hood citywide.

2<sup>nd</sup> Action taken - The AAAC was unanimous in its conclusion that the City Commission should exempt itself (where eligible) from renaming procedures, waive all fees associated with the renaming of the Street(s) and identify a new name(s) via a public participation process. Note: The AAAC is aware that implementing its recommendation will require a 5/7 vote of approval by the City Commission.

Formal Recommendation - In the eyes of the AAAC, the names Forrest, Lee, and Hood are derogatory, socially unacceptable, represent persons that are responsible for immoral and/or egregious acts and therefore misrepresent the attitudes and morals of the citizens of Hollywood. The AAAC also noted that the street names in question would not meet the current street naming criteria. While the AAAC is recommending the renaming of Forrest, Lee, and Hood citywide, the Council clearly expressed that Forrest Street is a priority citywide.

Furthermore, because of the moral concerns of this action, the AAAC is recommending that the City Commission exempt itself (where eligible) from renaming procedures, waive all fees associated with the renaming of Forrest, Lee, and Hood Streets and identify new names via a public participation process.

## II. OLD BUSINESS

### a. Report on Open Action Items

Item #	Action Item	Responsible entity	Status
029	Review Calendar of Events with Public Relations Department	City Staff	Complete
030	Identify non-profits to develop partnership for Cultural Awareness Objectives	City Staff	Complete
031	Identify non-profits to develop partnership for Housing Objectives	City Staff	Complete
032	Print City and Neighborhood Maps	City Staff	Complete
033	Create Cultural Awareness and Fact Finding Subcommittees	AAAC	Complete
034	Identify October meeting location	City Staff	Complete
035	Set meeting dates for Subcommittees	City Staff	Complete
036	Create Marketing Materials for AAH Workshop	City Staff	On-going
037	Develop Marketing Strategy for AAH Workshops	CA Sub	On-going
038	Identify "Game Changer Programs"	FF Sub	On-going

## III. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS (10 minutes)

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**Persons with disabilities who require reasonable accommodation to participate in City programs and/or services may contact the Office of the City Manager five business days in advance at (954) 921-3201 (voice). If an individual is hearing or speech impaired, please call 1-800-955-8771 (V-TDD).**

**Two or more members of any City Board, Commission, or Committee who are not members of the African American Advisory Council may attend this meeting and may, at that time, discuss matters on which foreseeable action may later be taken by their Council, Commission, or Committee. For more information, please contact Anthony R. Grisby, Staff Liaison, at the Department Community and Economic Development at (954) 921-3271.**