



Planning & Development Division
Planning & Economic Development Department

Room 160
411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802



218-730-5580



planning@duluthmn.gov

AFRICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION - MINUTES

Thursday May 11th, 2023 | 411 W 1s St, Room 155, City Hall | 6:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Archie Davis, Jeanine Schroer, Njoki Kamau, Ayana Maitland, Melissa Grimes

Absent: Vanni Hayden, Bernice Pepper

Start Time: 6:00pm

Call to Order

Chair Maitland called the meeting to order at 6:10pm

Public Comment

- Staff member Webb stated that Carl Crawford stated that the luncheon for Juneteenth will be moved back to City Hall. This is due to Grandma's marathon would be starting at that exact same spot. Chair Maitland had everyone in the room present introduce themselves, and have the commission state their background.
- Gail S. from the League of Women Voters stated that she was visiting to introduce herself to the commission, and that she was available for any questions.
- Chair Maitland had everyone present introduce themselves around the room. And had the commission state why they are on the commission and their background.

Approval of April 13, 2023 meeting minutes

Commissioner Schroer made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Commissioner Maitland.

MOTION/Second: Schroer/Maitland **Vote (5-0) APPROVED**

Meeting Topics

a- Juneteenth Discussion (Guest Speaker –ChaQuana McEntyre)

ChaQuana McEntyre introduced herself to the commission, and talked about the history of Juneteenth. She stated that she has gone back and forth from Wisconsin and Minnesota due to being one community despite being two different states. She stated that she has been strategic with where to have Juneteenth this year with the statistical analysis, and chose Lincoln Park. Anticipating 2,500 individuals coming. There is a beauty pageant, 3-3 tournament, farmers market etc. Commissioner Schroer asked how people can donate, volunteer, etc. She stated there is website twinportsjuneteenth.com. Commissioner Kamau asked is there a conflict between her event and Jacob Bell's events. ChaQuana stated that she has reached out to the communities that help the black community including NAACP. She is still fundraising for the event. Manager Fulton stated that the commission could come together to coordinate between each of the agencies for next year. The commission thanked her for sharing all of what she has done so far for the upcoming event.



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Commissioner Schroer stated that there should be unity coming into the 2024 Juneteenth since each agency has slightly different goals.

b- Current Data presentation (Kathy Wilson)

Moved to next meeting.

c- Ordinance establishing African Heritage Commission

Manager Fulton stated that when the original ordinance was made, the Planning & Development department was not involved originally, it was the city attorney department. Commissioner Kamau asked why are African Heritage faces being invited to come to city hall to participate on this commission. Manager Fulton stated his understanding of the intent is to make sure there is an opportunity to have a voice in city government. How that voice is used is up to the commission to decide. It is up to the commission on where staff can assist to support within bureaucracy. President Kennedy attended, and shared the purpose of the creation of the commission by the City Council ordinance. She also stated the that each face of color has a different experience. A discussion by guests and commissioners on the wording of the original resolution, specifically on the importance and impact on the word choices used: "black" and "African Heritage." The Chair stated that the commission would like to make the language as inclusionary as possible. Chair Maitland read a portion of the book "Where do we go from Here?" from Martin Luther King Jr. as a reference of "Black", and "African Heritage". Manager Fulton stated that the commission can convene the final wording of the ordinance at the next meeting, and the commission can vote on it.

Individual Commissioner Updates

Chair Maitland went to "Love Your Block" to ask about how much money each grant is for. There was talk of having teens going to clean up the neighborhood, and be rewarded after the task is done.

Adjourn (Next meeting, June 8, 2023)

MOTION/Second: Maitland/Davis Vote (5-0) APPROVED

8:10pm