

## Minutes

### The African American Heritage Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

August 14, 2014 11:30 AM  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, City Hall

Members in attendance: Marvin Chambers, Sasha Mitchell, Jan Goffney, Isaac Coleman, Angel Redmond, Johnnie Grant, Phyllis Utley

Members absent: Desmond McAfee

Council Liaison: Chris Pelly

Staff: Roderick Simmons, Steve Garrison, Alex Carmichael

Guests: Deborah Miles

Chairwoman Grant called the meeting to order at 11:41 AM.

1. **Approval of the July Minutes**

Marvin Chambers motioned to adopt the July minutes as amended. Isaac Coleman seconded. All members voted in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

2. **Unfinished Business:**

- a. Jan Goffney said that she would like the Commission to consider job training programs and a recommendation that City contracts give preference to minority owned businesses and ex-convicts. Councilman Pelly spoke to the legal limitations to preferences, but noted that the City had a minority business outreach program for contracts.

3. **New Business:**

- a. **Strategic Work Plan and Historical Marker Program** – Roderick Simmons, Asheville Parks and Recreation Department  
The Commission discussed the strategic work plan as it pertains to projects and infrastructure. Roderick Simmons recommended that the Commission begin by identifying projects, then assess the infrastructure that would be necessary to carry out those projects. Chairwoman Grant suggested having a work session to identify and plan projects. The project work session will be during the next regular meeting of the African American Heritage Commission, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Roderick Simmons encouraged the Commission members to look over the draft work plan and consider broad areas where the Commission can focus. Projects may evolve from those focus areas. He requested that Commission members come to the work session with a list of projects to discuss.

- b. Recommendation of Candidates for Open Commission Seat –**  
Roderick Simmons, Asheville Parks and Recreation Department  
The Asheville City Council would appoint a new member to the Commission to fill the seat vacated by Dr. Lamar Hylton at the August 26<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The Commission recommended the following names for the City Council to consider: Viola Spells, Shaneika Smith, Roy Harris, and Jackie Simms.

**4. Public Comment:**

- a.** Deborah Miles spoke about the placement of a new memorial honoring African American Heritage at the Vance Monument site. The Vance Monument was slated for refurbishment, which posed an opportunity for the addition. Since the African American Heritage Commission had not yet begun its marker program, Ms. Miles requested the blessing of the Commission to appeal to the Public Art Commission.

Isaac Coleman motioned to recommend the addition of the memorial to the Public Art Commission. Marvin Chambers seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. None opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

- b.** Chairwoman Grant asked about having the work session at the Wilcox Building on South Charlotte St, and if lunch could be provided. Roderick Simmons said that he would check the availability of the Wilcox Building and that lunch would be provided.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.