

Minutes

**African American Heritage Commission
of Asheville and Buncombe County
February 12, 2015
1st Floor Conference Room, City Hall**

Members Present: Angel Redmond, Isaac Coleman, Sasha Mitchell, Phyllis Utley, Marvin Chambers

Members Absent: Johnnie Grant (excused)

Council Liaison: Chris Pelly

Guests: Roy Harris

Staff: Roderick Simmons, Alex Carmichael, Steve Garrison

Chairperson Mitchell called the meeting to order at 11:40 AM.

1. **Approval of the December and January Minutes:** Commission member Isaac Coleman motioned to approve the December minutes. Commission member Angel Redmond seconded. The motion passed with all in favor. Commission member Angel Redmond motioned to approve the January minutes. Commission member Marvin Chambers seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.
2. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a. **Discuss Committee Assignments**

Education: Isaac Coleman and Phyllis Utley reported that they were happy with their committee assignments. Al Whitesides' seat on the Education Committee remains vacant.

Public Relations: The Public Relations Committee consists of Sasha Mitchell, Johnnie Grant, and Marvin Chambers.

Community Outreach: Sasha Mitchell and Angel Redmond are on the Community Outreach Committee. Desmond McAfee's seat remains vacant.

Historical Marker Committee: The Historical Marker Committee consists of Marvin Chambers, Johnnie Grant, and Sasha Mitchell. Phyllis Utley volunteered to join.

Nominations Committee: The Nominations Committee consists of Johnnie Grant, Marvin Chambers, and Angel Redmond. The Commission discussed if the Nominations Committee was necessary, but Committee members recommended keeping it in place. No action was taken.

3. New Business:

a. Applicants Interviews

The Commission interviewed four candidates for vacant Commission seats. Each candidate was asked what they have to contribute in order to meet the goals of the African American Heritage Commission; if they are able to commit to the meeting schedule; and why they want to serve on the African American Heritage Commission. The four candidates interviewed were DeWayne Barton, Viola Spells, Jesse Junior, and Georgia M. Shannon.

After each candidate was interviewed the Commission discussed the candidates' relative merits. Commission members decided to review the candidates' applications before making a decision on Thursday the 19th.

b. Discuss Black History Month – Sasha Mitchell, Chair

Chairwoman Mitchell discussed using the momentum from Dr. Henry Louis Gates' presentation at UNCA to generate enthusiasm for an African American Heritage event. The Commission discussed delaying the event to allow for more preparation time. Chair Sasha Mitchell asked for volunteers for a planning committee. Marvin Chambers and Sasha Mitchell volunteered.

5. Public Comment:

- a.** Roy Harris spoke to the Commission about his travels across the state and reported on ideas and resources from other areas, including an African American heritage guide produced by the Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The meeting adjourned at 12:51 PM.