

## Minutes

**African American Heritage Commission  
of Asheville and Buncombe County  
May 14, 2015  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, City Hall**

Members Present: Isaac Coleman, Sasha Mitchell, Phyllis Utley, Marvin Chambers, Kelly Goings, DeWayne Barton

Members Absent: Johnnie Grant, Angel Redmond, Viola Spells

Council Liaison: Chris Pelly

Guests: Roy Harris

Staff: Alex Carmichael; Roderick Simmons

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

1. **Approval of the March Minutes:** Commission member Marvin Chambers motioned to approve the March minutes. Commission member Isaac Coleman seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.
2. **New Business:**
  - a. **African American History 365 Event**

The Commission discussed ideas for potential community events to sponsor. Possible events include:

    - August – Burton Street Agriculture Fair. DeWayne Barton and Sasha Mitchell will coordinate.
    - September – Family History Month.
    - October – Community Garden Event at Pisgah View. DeWayne Barton and Sasha Mitchell will coordinate.
    - November – Honoring Veterans. Sasha Mitchell will coordinate.
    - December – Kwanzaa Event.
  - b. **Survey**

Sasha Mitchell and Kelly Goings will work on created a survey to capture community input.
  - c. **Review Committee Assignments**

New committee assignments include:

- **Education:** Isaac Coleman, Phyllis Utley, Angel Redmond, Kelly Goings
- **Public Relations:** Johnnie Grant, Marvin Chambers, Sasha Mitchell, Kelly Goings
- **Community Outreach:** Sasha Mitchell, Angel Redmond, Isaac Coleman, DeWayne Barton
- **Nominations:** All members of the African American Heritage Commission

**d. Discuss Monument to African American Heritage**

The Commission discussed the potential for African American Heritage in Asheville and Buncombe County. Sasha Mitchell suggested attempting to add new monuments to historically Confederate monument sites, rather attempting to take any monuments away. She also suggested James Vester Miller and William Rolland as honoree candidates.

Roderick Simmons discussed a potential process for the project. That process could begin by determining a project scope, then releasing a call for proposals or a call for artists. Mr. Simmons offered his assistance.

DeWayne Barton suggested that the survey can help define what types of monuments (locations, themes, time periods, etc.) the Commission should pursue. Sasha Mitchell and Kelly Goings will work to create a survey. Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Barton will work together to distribute the survey once it is complete.

Sasha Mitchell shared information about an example monument, Freedom Park in Kentucky. The Commission discussed slavery, economics, and the achievements of African American historical figures as subject matters for the monument.

**e. Discuss Member Terms**

Sasha asked Commission Members whose terms are ending if they would be willing to serve another term. Isaac Coleman, Marvin Chambers, and Sasha Mitchell all said that they were willing to serve another term.

**f. Discuss Meeting Schedule**

The Commission decided to discuss possible changes in the meeting schedule when more members are present.

**5. Public Comment**

Roy Harris informed the Commission about an art exhibit coming to the YMI, “American Who Tell the Truth.” Isaac Coleman, who is also involved in the project, invited everyone to volunteer.

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 PM.