



**AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2015**

Commission Members in Attendance:

Sasha Mitchell, DeWayne Barton, Isaac Coleman, Kelly Goins, Viola Spells, Phyllis Utley

Council Liaison in Attendance:

Chris Pelly

Staff in Attendance:

Roderick Simmons, Alex Carmichael

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of 6/11/2015 were approved on Commission Member Phyllis Utley's motion, Commission Member Viola Spells' second on a 6-0 vote.

2. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review of Attendance Policy

Chairperson Mitchell reviewed the attendance policy and each member's attendance rate. City Council sets the minimum attendance rate for commission meetings at 75%. Commission Member Johnnie Grant has attended the Commission meetings 40% of the time.

Recommendation removing Johnnie Grant from membership of the African American Heritage Commission was approved on Commission Member Isaac Coleman's motion, Commission Member Kelly Goins' second on a 5-1 vote. Those members voting aye were: Commission Members Coleman, Goins, Mitchell, Spells, and Utley. Commission Member Barton voted nay.

Johnnie Grant's seat on the African American Heritage Commission was one of three seats appointed at large by the six City and County Commission appointees. Recommendation to appoint Georgia Shannon to serve the remainder of the term vacated by Johnnie Grant was approved on Commission Member Viola Spells' motion, Commission Member Isaac Coleman's' second on a 5-0 vote.

Commission Member Viola Spells offered to contact Georgia Shannon.

b. Discussion of Time Capsule

Chairperson Mitchell encouraged commission members to solicit suggestions from the African American community for small items of community relevance to include in the time capsule to be installed on the Vance Monument site.

c. Update on Meeting with Mayor Manheimer

Chairperson Mitchell provided an update to the Commission on her meeting with Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer. In that meeting they discussed the need for the Commission to make a presentation to Council on the Commission’s goals and objectives and to create a budget that includes funding for a monument and a strategic plan facilitator. The Commission can start a nonprofit for fundraising or partner with an existing nonprofit. Mayor Manheimer suggested the Commission work with the Tourism Development Authority.

Recommendation to present the African American Heritage Commission goals and objectives to the Asheville City Council and the Buncombe County Commission was approved on Commission Member Isaac Coleman’s motion, Commission Member Viola Spells’ second on a 6-0 vote.

d. Request for Commission Member to Serve as AAHC Secretary

Commission Member Kelly Goins volunteered to serve as an informal secretary for the Commission.

e. Work Session

The Commission meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m. in order for sub committees to work on the following items:

- Plan Vision for Monuments: Project Scope, Call for Proposals, Call for Artists
- Plan Upcoming Events:
 - 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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Phobe Kirby of Coming to the Table came to the Commission meeting to observe and learn.

5. ADJOURN

Chair Sasha Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 12:28 p.m. without objection.