



AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015**

Commission Members in Attendance:

Sasha Mitchell (Chair), Marvin Chambers (Vice Chair), DeWayne Barton, Isaac Coleman, Kelly Goins, Georgia M. Shannon, Viola Spells, Phyllis Utley

Council Liaison:

Chris Pelly

Staff in Attendance:

Roderick Simmons, Alex Carmichael

Guests:

Wayne Purcell

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of 8/13/2015 were approved on Commission Member Isaac Coleman's motion, Commission Member Viola Spells' second on an 8-0 vote.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Update on Community Foundation, Tourism Development Authority, and the Time Capsule

Chairwoman Mitchell spoke with the Community Foundation. They asked for the African American Heritage Commission's goals and objectives in order to identify areas where the Foundation's goals and objectives overlap.

Chairwoman Mitchell reported that she had not yet contacted the TDA, but had read their report which did not mention the African American community. She hoped that the TDA would look at African American tourists' numbers for the area.

Brenda Mills collected African American community items for the time capsule, which were photographed after they were collected. There was a nice representation of the African American community included in the capsule.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. AAHC Partnership with AB Tech and UNCA Event

A representative from AB Tech contacted Ms. Mitchell to ask if the Commission would be willing to partner with the College for an event. DeWayne Barton asked about the process for outside groups requesting partnerships. Chairwoman Mitchell said the first step should be getting them on the

Commission's agenda. Councilman Pelly mentioned that if the partnership was for a City sponsored event, there may be a possibility of seeking City funds, but the program for the event needs to be in place first.

UNCA will host an "African Americans in WNC" conference October 23-24th. The Commission discussed hosting a table at the event and creating brochures. Chairwoman Mitchell said she would draft text for a brochure and send it out to the group.

Phyllis Utley shared that the Shiloh community would have an historical celebration during the coming weekend.

b. Family History Month

Sasha Mitchell and Viola Spells will work on family history month programming.

c. Schedule for AAHC Presentations for City Council and County Commission

Chairwoman Mitchell spoke with City Clerk, Maggie Burlison. The earliest the Commission could get their presentation on the Council's agenda would be September or October. Ms. Mitchell said she would contact the County Commission's Office in the coming week.

d. Minority Enterprise Development (M.E.D.) Week

Chairwoman Mitchell informed the Commission that M.E.D. Week begins next week with an event on Tuesday at 4 PM at the Center for Craft Creativity and Design. There would be presentations by former award winners and Chairwoman Mitchell would speak at 4:30 PM.

e. Vacant Seat

The Commission discussed the remaining vacant seat, which was a County appointment. Marvin Chambers suggested that the commission members give thought to a recommendation and discuss it at the next meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Wayne Purcell has lived in the area for 28 years. He came to the meeting to see what the Commission does.

5. ADJOURN

Chairwoman Sasha Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m. without objection.