



Planning & Development Division
Planning & Economic Development Department

Room 160
411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802



218-730-5580



planning@duluthmn.gov

AFRICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION - MINUTES

Thursday April 11th, 2023 | 411 W 1s St, Room 155, City Hall | 6:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Archie Davis, Vanni Hayden, Janine Schroer, Bernice Pepper, Njoki Kamau, Ayana Maitland

Start Time: 6:07pm

1. Call to Order

Ryan Pervenanze called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

2. Election of Officers

Facilitation of initial voting process led by Ryan Pervenanze, Manager, Planning & Development.

- a. Nominations for Chair of Commissioner Ayana Maitland. Nomination for Vice Chair of Commissioner Archie Davis. Second by Njoki Kamau. Unanimous vote by Commission to approve both Officers.

2. Public Comment

Guest attended to share information about the City's Love Your Block program, and grant opportunities. More information is available for the program on the City's website and Instagram at @LoveYourBlockDuluth.

3. Approval of March 9, 2023 meeting minutes

Commissioner Hayden motioned, second by Commissioner Jeanine Schroer. A misspelling of Chair Maitland's name was found in previous minutes. Will be updated by Staff.

Unanimous vote by the Commission to accept the minutes.

4. Meeting Topics

Juneteenth Discussion (Guest Speaker – Carl Crawford)

Human Rights Officer Carl Crawford discussed the Elders Luncheon on Friday, June 16th which is funded by the Unity Fund from last year. Planners are looking to have the luncheon by the lake in Canal Park this year to improve parking, visibility and access to restroom facilities. Mr. Crawford is working with Carl Hamilton. They are seeking additional input from the Duluth African Heritage Commission. If members of the Commission or the public want to be a part of these discussions, they can connect with Mr. Crawford.

Commissioners who nominated themselves as committed to attending the Luncheon so far include: Chair Maitland, Commissioner Kamau, Commissioner Schroer, Commissioner Hayden. By mid-May Mr. Crawford would like the final list of those attending.

Discussion was had on how these events will be covered and given awareness by organizers. This will include Mr. Crawford presenting at other Commissions, flyers, social media, press conferences and the City broader communication opportunities. Discussion of having the



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conversation on the dates and times of the various Juneteenth events, and how the Commission can be recognized and announced at the various events that day.

3. Determine participation timing

The meeting dates and times (second Thursday at 6pm) works well for members and the board wishes to continue them.

4. Discuss location and participants

A discussion of changing to some locations of meetings outside of City Hall. Locations discussed included One Roof, the Library, Washington Center.

May DAHC Meeting: A goal for the next meeting is to bring ideas on meeting locations.

July DAHC Meeting: A goal is set for July as the first meeting to be away from City Hall and within the community. That meeting will be at One Roof Community Housing.

5. Assign responsibilities

Discussion of updates to the Resolution Purpose Statement on the Creation of Commission. Edits and proposals will be brought by Commissioners to the next meeting.

A goal of May 1st, to turn in all changes to staff to compile. Motion by Vice Chair Davis, seconded by Commissioner Schroer. Unanimous vote to approve.

Discussion of a survey on identity and representation of the black community. This included a future action step of drafting an identity survey as future agenda item.

6. Individual Commissioner Updates

Duluth PD Racial Bias Audit survey: Request to Staff to communicate to DPD that they would like the survey deadline to be extended.

Discussion on how this Commission can interact with other Duluth boards, community groups and City Departments.

Commissioner Davis: Discussion of fundraising opportunities through Love Your Block, the Northland Foundation and in support with Jacob Bell.

7. Adjourn