



CITY OF OAK PARK

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Ethnic Advisory Commission

City Council
Mayor
Marian McClellan
Mayor Pro Tem
Carolyn Burns
Council Members
Solomon Radner
Kenneth Rich
Kiesha Speech
City Manager
Erik Tungate

Ethnic Advisory Commission
Chairperson
Vacant
Vice-Chair
Carl Allwood
Secretary
Vacant
Commissioners
Juanita Bell Mattie Boykin
Leona Burns Christopher Davis
Rosetta Kincaid Reatha Richmond
Lonnie Tabb-Upshaw Avi Snider
Sudha Chandra Sekhar Carla Wallace
Staff Liaison
Vicky Brooks, Human Resources Director

Meeting of the Oak Park Ethnic Advisory Commission 7 PM Thursday, January 14, 2016 Oak Park Community Center Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm and roll call was completed.

PRESENT: Vice-Chairperson Carl Allwood, Secretary Lana Sherman, Sudha Chandra Sekhar, Avi Snider, Lonnie Tabb-Upshaw, Carla Wallace (7:22pm arrival)

Ex-officio Members:

Carolyn Burns, Mayor Pro Tem
Vicky Brooks, Staff Liaison

ABSENT: Juanita Bell, Leona Burns, Mattie Boylin, Christopher Davis, Rosetta Kincaid, Reatha Richmond,

Ex-officio Members:

Mayor Marian McClellan, Councilmember Kiesha Speech, Councilmember Solomon Radner, Councilmember Kenneth Rich

Due to a lack of quorum no official business could be conducted.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Email from Mayor Marian McClellan to Staff Liaison Brooks and the Ethnic Advisory Commission - January 12, 2016

“Our chair resigned – two babies are keeping him very busy, so we need a new chair who can attend all the meetings. That was a huge issue. Would you (Vicky Brooks) chair the meeting until I locate someone?”

2. Email from Councilmember Speech to Staff Liaison Brooks and the Ethnic Advisory Commission – January 14, 2016

“Hello Director Brooks & Commissioners, It is not likely I will make this evening’s meeting however, I wanted to be sure you and the commissioners knew my line of thinking on the below (just in case I cannot):

1. *Since no quorum in November, the preceding meetings minutes would likely also need to be approved.*
2. *Be sure to state for this meeting’s minutes that December meeting was cancelled and the reasoning. I will note that lack of quorum means you can’t vote, not you can’t meet.*
3. *See what ordinance requires as far as meeting dates. Do you need to meet monthly or can it be less often in order to get more participation.*
4. *Before engaging in any other activities (re: School), this Commission needs to have regular attending members who can commit to additional activities.*

5. *Election of officers should only happen with quorum. One officer (president) is by appointment of the Mayor.*

I do intend to assist with World Dance Day and will be as active with the Commission as possible this year. Unfortunately, this evening's absence may not be avoided. I will do my best.

Regards,

DISCUSSION:

Attendance - The members present at the November 12, 2015 who committed to contacting regularly absent Commission members presented the results of their efforts. The decision was made to present a memorandum to the City Council recommending those members' attendance that has fallen below the City ordinance requirement be replaced.

World Dance Day – Commissioner Sekhar gave an overview of the event and outlined the areas where help is needed. She will be in charge of securing performers; both singers and dancers. Commissioner Wallace will manage and get approved all forms of advertisement including flyers, e-blasts, posting, and the City marquee and website. Commissioner Upshaw will act as liaison to the Oak Park School District and secure the Oak Park High School auditorium for April 29, 2016. It was suggested that Councilmember Speech be approached regarding being the Mistress of Ceremony and Commissioner Upshaw agreed to make the invitation. The time of the event will be 6:30pm thru 9:30pm and it is important to notify the performers that there is a time limit attached to each presentation.

50th Voting Rights Act Anniversary Event – It was unanimously agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

Election of New Officers – Tabled due to a lack of quorum.

School Partnership (Student Diversity Sub-committee) – H.R. Director Brooks presented the idea of approaching the school districts regarding participation by junior and senior students in discussions and events sponsored by the Ethnic Advisory Commission. Graduating students are usually looking for avenues to gain experience in community service. It was suggested that Juanita Bell spearhead this project as she is a retiree from the school system.

Call to Commissioners

Commissioner Sekhar apprised those present of an India celebration called Bogi and explained the meaning and some of the activities that would be occurring in recognition of the holiday.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55p.m.