



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
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Vacant
Vice-Chair **Secretary**
Carl Allwood Carla Wallace
Commissioners

Tina Baker Juanita Bell
Mattie Boykin Leona Burns
Christopher Davis Rosetta Kincaid
Reatha Richmond Avi Snider
Sudha Chandra Sekhar Lonnie Tabb-Upshaw
Anita Warner
Staff Liaison
Vicky Brooks, Human Resources Director

Meeting of the Oak Park Ethnic Advisory Commission 7 PM Thursday, May 12, 2016 Oak Park Community Center Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm and roll call was completed, no quorum at this time.

PRESENT: Juanita Bell, Lonnie Tabb Upshaw, Carla Wallace, Anita Warner

Ex-officio Members:
Vicky Brooks, Staff Liaison

ABSENT: Vice-Chairperson Carl Allwood, Leona Burns, Mattie Boylin, Christopher Davis, Tina Baker, Reatha Richmond, Sudha Chandra Sekha, Avi Snider

Ex-officio Members:
Mayor Marian McClellan, Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Burns,
Councilmember Kiesha Speech, Councilmember Solomon Radner,
Councilmember Kenneth Rich

COMMUNICATIONS:

None to report

DISCUSSION:

World Dance Day – Overview

Commissioner Upshaw commented that the venue was nice and the performers performed well, but she felt the attendance was low compared to previous years and she felt that the parking and the fact that the school was having an event at the same time could have had an impact on attendance. She also mentioned that participation from our commission was low.

Commissioner Bell commented that she felt that the leadership failed and that the location change may have caused things to change and suggested we add several things to the printed program (Introduction and Welcome, Greetings from the City, Introduction of Commissioners, and Thank you at end)

Commissioner Warner commented that location may have affected participation and turn out.

It was mentioned that 47 people were present this year at World Dance Day. Several ideas for next year were discussed: Better communication amongst the commission members, assign duties and hold people accountable to be effective, plan to invite groups that will generate attendance.

School Partnership (Student Diversity Sub-committee) – No Report-Tabled until next meeting

New Business

Staff Liaison Brooks shared with us that she has an application for the Independence Day Parade and wanted to know if we were interested in participating. Commissioner Bell will complete the application for the parade (July 4th) and submit it for the group for the June 1st deadline. An email will be sent out to the members of the Ethnic Advisory Commission to find out who would be interested in participating in the parade and seeking out restaurants to participate in Summerfest for the Commission to get credit.

Commissioner Tabb-Upshaw has an idea for an annual event that the Commission sponsor an essay writing contest based on a particular holiday and seek a sponsor that would provide grant monies for the prize. Commissioner Bell shared with the Commission that she knows of 7 companies that give grants to children.

Call to Commissioners

Commissioner Bell shared with the Commission that when you do volunteer work you are allowed to claim 14 cent a mile on your income tax returns.

The Commission welcomed back Commissioner Warner, former Ethnic Advisory Commission member.

In an email Councilmember Speech suggested the Commission take a vote to change the time of the meetings if that would help with getting more participation from the membership.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.