



Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | March 11, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Patricia Carter-Breekner, Marquess Dennis, Dewayne Dickens, Brian Humphrey, Margaret Love, Larissa McNeil, Jon Paul Ray, Jameelah Stuckey, Maybelle Wallace, Juddie Williams, Tony Williams

Commissioners Absent: David Harris, Tracye Love Chandler, Kristi Williams

I. Call to Order and Introductions

- a. Chairman Dickens called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to approve the February meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Ray motioned, Commissioner Stuckey seconded.
 1. Aye: 9, Nay: 0
 2. Commissioners Carter-Breekner and McNeil were not yet present in the meeting.
 - ii. Motion carried, February meeting minutes approved.

III. Chair Report

- a. Chairman Dickens noted that commissioners should pick up their name tags. When commissioners represent GTAAAC at an event, wear your name tag; however, if you are not officially representing GTAAAC do not wear the name tag.
- b. Chairman Dickens highlighted priorities as chair:
 - i. Filling seats with active commissioners.
 1. Reflected that the community this commission represents has challenges and successes, and it's important to represent both in a balanced way to the Mayor's Office. Active commissioners are key to this.
 2. Commissioners who no longer have the capacity to serve are encouraged to be on a committee.
 - ii. Review committees.
 1. Committees have been working to identify priorities. Need to turn into Chairman Dickens.
 2. Identify what committee members can realistically accomplish with the expertise on the committee that will make an impact and is relevant to GTAAAC.



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3. Commitments from all commissioners are due by the end of March to facilitate quarterly activities for the rest of the year.
4. Committee chairs:
 - a. Education & Skill Building: Commissioners Love and Stuckey
 - b. Community Engagement & Culture Promotion: Commissioners Wallace and McNeil
 - c. Policy Recommendations: Commissioners Dennis and Ray
- iii. Vice Chair Humphrey commends committees for their work and commitment this year.
- c. Chairman Dickens noted this is his last year as Chair. Knows some folks are interested in becoming Chair, will offer opportunities to understand the work that goes into this role.
 - i. Invited commissioners to express interest via email.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Policy Recommendations
 - i. Vice Chair Humphrey highlighted that a group of committee members met with D.R. Horton, the largest housing development company in the nation, which has recently begun work in Greenwood. Navigating issues of feasibility, affordability, and community impact.
 1. Average price currently \$290,000, looking to build about 200 homes.
 2. Seeking subsidies to make the costs more affordable. Approached Department of Permits and Development Services and GTAAAC to explore opportunities.
 3. Opportunity for GTAAAC to facilitate community input and propose something to the Mayor's Office.
 4. Vice Chair Humphrey disclosed he knows individuals with D.R. Horton through other personal business ventures.
 5. Commissioner Dennis noted this is an opportunity to align with Mayor Nichols's housing priority.
 - ii. Commissioner Dennis introduced a committee member in the audience.
 - iii. Commissioner Dennis shared that City Councilors want GTAAAC to elevate any opportunities for alignment and support to them. Will be determining priorities for 2025 soon. Want to see GTAAAC lead an initiative and bring others in.
- b. Community Engagement and Culture Promotion
 - i. Commissioner McNeil reported the spoken word contest winners will not be able to perform at Tulsa Juneteenth due to the festival schedule;

however, the contest will be included in the official lineup and promotional materials.

1. Will roll out the contest to schools starting in April so students have April and May to submit their poems.
- ii. Send information for the newsletter to Commissioner McNeil by the first Friday of the month to be included.
- c. Education and Skill Building
 - i. Commissioner Stuckey shared that Lori Long from Junior Achievement Oklahoma was a guest speaker at the March committee meeting.
 - ii. Tulsa Public Schools and Tulsa Regional Chamber are collaborating on a program to support students who are college-bound. Will share the link with Lexi to send out.
 - iii. Discussed parameters for this year's Black Educator Excellence Awards in the March committee meeting.
 - iv. Using existing resources to compile a family resource guide supporting literacy.
 - v. GTAAAC's June speaker will be Dr. Laura Latta and the November speaker will be Dion'trae Hayes.
- d. Human Rights Commission – no report

V. Old Business

- a. Status of Open Commission Seats
 - i. Chairman Dickens noted there are two commissioners who recently stepped down. Additionally, the Black Wall Street Chamber's seat has been approved for a few months and they are working on the necessary paperwork to appoint a representative to that seat. 15 seats filled, 8 are open.
 - ii. If you know individuals who would be a good fit to serve on the commission—whether in an individual or organization seat—please send those recommendations to Chairman Dickens.

VI. New Business – no new business

VII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. State of Black Tulsa Summit on Saturday, March 15 from 9:30 – 2:00 at 36 Street North Event Center. Chairman Dickens encouraged commissioners to attend.
- b. There were two public comments.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Commissioner Ray made a motion, Commissioner Tony Williams seconded.
 1. Aye: 11
- b. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.