



**GREATER TULSA AREA
AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS
COMMISSION**

March 8, 2022 | 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center

Members Present	Members Absent
Thomas Boxley	Daryll Bright
Marquess Dennis	Greg Robinson II
Dewayne Dickens	Jameelah Stuckey
David Harris	
Brian Humphrey	
Margaret Love	
Larissa McNeil	
Burlinda Radney	
Maybelle Wallace	
Kristi Williams	

- I. Call to Order and Introductions**
 - a. Chairwoman Williams calls the meeting called to order at 6:08 pm.
- II. Approval of Minutes from February**
 - a. Commissioner Williams requests a motion to approve the meeting minutes.
 - b. Motion to approve by Commissioner Love
 - i. Seconded by Commissioner Humphrey
 - ii. All in unanimous favor
- III. Chair Report**
 - a. Commissioner Williams announces that the commission will begin revamping the committees, to specifically serve as support for the commission to primarily working on Equality Indicators focuses for Black Tulsans, and ways to create solutions to improve the score.
 - i. Commissioner Humphrey inquires about any activities that the committees have done in the past, and if it'd be appropriate to shift the focus of the committees.
 1. Commissioner Williams agrees – she'd specifically like to see that the housing committee remain untouched. Homeownership based on the 2021 statistics indicates that 60.6% of white Tulsans are homeowners, and Black Tulsans are 30.9%. She'd like for this committee to continue advocating to address those barriers on the policy level
 - a. Commissioner Radney agrees and affirms that there are initiatives the committee can continue moving forward on regarding housing policy. However, she believes that the committee would benefit from shifting from surface-level approaches that encourage simple homeownership, to more strategic approaches that acknowledge wealth gaps and wealth-building. Lack of homeownership in the Black Community is a symptom of a lack of wealth, and the

median income for Black families vs white families is starkly contrasted.

1. Commissioner Harris – agrees – and believes that the commission should be looking into efforts tailored to educate the community on wealth building. materialistic fixes.
 - a. Commissioner Radney agrees and acknowledges that this generation of new or potential homeowners is carrying much more debt than has ever been had in the past. She recognizes that people are having to postpone homeownership. With that in mind, she expresses her desire to teach about homeownership in a way that reflects the reality that hopeful homeowners will be tenets for much longer than folks have had to be in the past.
- b. Commissioner Dickenson asks if it's wise for the commission to discuss the priorities of the committee before measuring the importance and priorities, of all initiatives and tasks.
 - i. Commissioner Dickenson expresses that his biggest struggle has been not having a main priority for this commission to filter through. He asks that the commissioners have a strategy session first.
 1. Commissioner Radney expresses appreciation for Dr. Dickinson's words and expresses the desire for this commission to be less responsive and more strategy-centered.
 - a. Especially for a number of upcoming projects. She expresses concern with the master plan for Evans Finn Tube and states that the work of this commission can positively impact that trajectory, and ward off potential harm.
 - i. Commissioner Radney also expresses her desire to find a way to see what the community needs from this commission, rather than just assuming.
 1. Commissioner Williams agrees and mentions that a listening session might be necessary.

IV. Committee Reports

a. Housing Policy

- i. Kristin Long with TAE0 reached out to commissioner Radney to co-create a clinic/workshop regarding curing title defects. Members of the

community can get instruction on what it means, and the implications of mishandling titles. Not having proper titles can lead to legally binding holdups or refusal of transfer land ownerships.

1. Commissioner Williams reports that she met w some TAEO staff members to discuss having meetings and workshops with the council, and GTAAAC for title defect awareness initiatives. They requested to visit during the April meeting.

b. Economic Development

- i. Commissioner Boxley reports that Evans Finn Tube had 3 proposals submitted, and they've moved forward with 2 proposals.
- ii. Commissioner Boxley mentions that he also thinks that wealth building is a topic that should be influencing the economic development committee, along with financial literacy, and business owners especially as it relates to the community.
 1. He reflects on the development that's coming to Tulsa, and how there's a huge opportunity to move wealth into communities of color.
 2. Commissioner Humphrey also reminds folks of the contracting job opportunities that are available.
- iii. Commissioner Dennis asks if the commission is working w TED-C or has ever worked with TEDC to discuss ways to intentionally provide capital to Black owners.
 1. Commissioner Boxley likes the idea but expresses the importance of diversifying where the Black community banks - it can't just be TEDC, there need to be options.
 - a. Commissioner Dennis thinks that an approach to locating a financial institution of some sort that operates on its own and reflects the values of the community would be a worthy project.
 - b. Commissioner Radney reports that another way to encourage diversification of money management would be by encouraging folks to have business accounts, which she reports that many do not. She saw that many small businesses and Black business owners couldn't produce tax records since they had no business account, which automatically disqualified them from access to free money. PPP for example was handing out historic loans that most traditional banks would be NEVER given folks.

c. Education Committee

- i. Dr. Dickinson discusses the latest items, which include addressing special education within the school districts, planned sessions for experts to offer to school-age students, and marketing to get people to register to vote this past summer – which wasn't successful.

- d. Cultural Awareness Committee
 - i. Commissioner Wallace reports the plays and events that have taken place in honor of Black History month and announces an additional play coming up for the last two weekends in May and tickets are \$20.
- e. Equal Justice and Accountable Policing
 - i. Mass graves report
 - 1. Commissioner Williams serves on the oversight committee for the Mass Graves excavation efforts and reports on a meeting last week where the scientific team presented their findings since this past summer. She expresses reservations about the ethics and the priorities of the project.
 - a. Commissioner Humphrey asks if there was any insight as to why the project contractors chose to take such a specific approach if the oversight committee is in staunch disagreement.
 - i. Commissioner Williams responds that she believes it's more so an issue of entities being unwilling to relinquish their rights.
 - b. She reminds the commissioners that the meetings are public and folks are welcome to voice their concerns and ideas.
 - i. For reference, The University of Oklahoma (OU) owns the rights of the study, not the city of Tulsa. OU has a contract with the city.
- f. Human Rights Commission
 - i. Commissioner Williams announces that HRC is requesting a delegate to the commission, and asks for volunteers.
 - 1. Commissioners McNeil, Radney, and Humphries volunteer to be considered for appointment to the commission, pending details on expectations and time commitment.

V. Old Business

- a. None

VI. New Business

- a. Commissioner Humphrey asks if the commission has any plans for Juneteenth activities.
 - i. Commissioner Williams reports that there are no formal activities that the commission will host, but there are alternate opportunities the commission has been asked to volunteer or participate in.

VII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Commissioner Williams informs everyone that Commissioner Robinson's mother passed away a few days ago, and requested that everyone keep him and his family in their thoughts.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Commissioner Williams requests a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Commissioner Boxley makes a motion to adjourn
 - ii. Commissioner Love seconds the motion



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