



Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | May 13, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Patricia Carter-Breeckner, Dewayne Dickens, Brian Humphrey, Margaret Love, Larissa McNeil, Jon Paul Ray, Donald Rose, Jameelah Stuckey, Mikeal Vaughn, Maybelle Wallace, Juddie Williams

Commissioners Absent: Marquess Dennis, David Harris, Tracye Love Chandler, Kristi Williams, Tony Williams

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairman Dickens called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to approve the April meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner McNeil motioned, Commissioner Wallace seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0
 - a. Commissioner Stuckey was not yet present in the meeting.
 - ii. Motion carried, April meeting minutes approved.

III. Guest Speaker: Rudisill Library Update with Keith Jimmerson

- a. Commissioner McNeil introduced Keith Jimmerson, the manager of the Rudisill Library and the 2024 Humanitarian of the Year Awardee from the Human Rights Commission. Chairman Dickens turned the meeting over to Keith Jimmerson.
- b. Tulsa City-County Library (TCCL) has a campaign called My Library, Our Future.
 - i. Replacing four heavily used branches—Brookside, Rudisill, Owasso, and South Broken Arrow—in two phases.
 - ii. Revamping traditional services and removing barriers.
 - iii. Campaign began with community input.
- c. Bronson-Brookside Library will open this fall.
- d. Rudisill Library's new location will be on Greenwood Ave. Keith shared the floor plan for the new library. Plans include meeting rooms, private study rooms, computers, teen and children's areas, a story time room, children's and adult patios, a music listening station, an audio lab, a gift shop, an oral history collection, a genealogy center, and a 400+ seat auditorium/event center. Drive-through services will also be available.
- e. Commission Discussion:
 - i. Commissioner Wallace asked if there will be a restaurant. Keith noted they don't want to compete with the amazing businesses on Greenwood, will support them.

- ii. Vice Chair Humphrey asked what will happen with the current Rudisill Library space. Keith said TCCL doesn't know yet, but they are committed to being good neighbors.
- iii. Commissioner Carter-Breeckner asked where the location is. Keith shared it is on Greenwood just north of B.S. Roberts Park.
- iv. Vice Chair Humphrey asked if the library shrank the size of the park. Keith said some of the park's land was reduced, but they are looking forward to being good neighbors and share the space. B.S. Roberts Park will also be undergoing renovations soon.
- v. Commissioner Ray asked about completion date. Keith said it should be about a year.
- vi. Commissioner Carter-Breeckner asked if there are plans to clean up Evans Fintube area. Keith said he isn't aware of any plans, but TCCL did work beforehand to ensure the area is safe. TCCL also did work to search for artifacts that might be from the Tulsa Race Massacre before construction began, and those artifacts will be on display at the library.

IV. Chair Report

- a. Chairman Dickens has been visiting with City Councilors, attended a Community Conversation. Hopes if other commissioners attended, that they signed up with the Education Committee's form.
- b. Chairman Dickens encouraged committees to continue working on their goals.
- c. Continuing to add commissioners, with the goal of having a full commission by the end of the year.
- d. Welcomed newest commissioners: Donald Rose in the Black Wall Street Chamber seat and Mikeal Vaughn with Urban Coders Guild in an at large seat. Commissioners Rose and Vaughn introduced themselves.
- e. Chairman Dickens reflected on the diversity within this group and the African American community at large. Every area each commissioner is part of brings an important perspective. Encouraged commissioners to think of the multiple ways they touch the community. Commission is here to support the Mayor, City Council, and African American community.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Policy Recommendations
 - i. Commissioner Ray reported the committee has been meeting consistently. Decided each committee member will write an op-ed. Want to do events/host initiatives but need to know what the community wants. Response to the op-eds will help inform the direction of those events.
 - ii. The committee is integrating with D.R. Horton's north Tulsa housing developments, in early stages of working with City of Tulsa on those developments.

- iii. Vice Chair Humphrey added he is excited to move forward, there could be other things GTAAAAC leans into as time goes on.
- b. Community Engagement and Culture Promotion
 - i. Commissioner McNeil shared that the spoken word contest hasn't gained traction with students. Sent the call out to schools a month ago and have received no submissions. With school ending soon, the committee will pivot to see how they can redesign an impactful program.
 - ii. Newsletters are gaining traction. People pick them up at Rudisill Library. Reminded commissioners that she includes updates from each committee as well as commissioners.
 - iii. Commissioner Wallace spoke to a representative with the Black Wall Street Market, highlighted transportation is a need for youth in north Tulsa. Also lack quality senior care facilities in north Tulsa. Working to organize folks to go to senior facilities and visit those who live there.
 - 1. Commissioner Love added that she is in nursing homes often, there is work being done to address concerns of how seniors are being cared for. Commissioner Love also elevated the prevalence of scams targeting elderly people. Offered to collaborate with Commissioner Wallace.
 - 2. Chairman Dickens reflected on the importance of collaborating with one another and pulling folks together to address big issues. For example, there are many entities working on transportation in north Tulsa and GTAAAAC can be part of bringing solutions to the table.
 - iv. Commissioner McNeil noted that she and Commissioner Stuckey talked about the Culture and Education Committees collaborating to organize tabling at Black Wall Street Legacy and Tulsa Juneteenth Festivals. This is an opportunity to be out in the community and share GTAAAAC and City of Tulsa resources.
- c. Education and Skill Building
 - i. Commissioner Stuckey echoed Commissioner McNeil's last point about tabling opportunities.
 - ii. Black Educator Excellence Awards will be Tuesday, October 28 from 6 – 7 pm. Mayor Nichols is confirmed to speak. Commissioner Stuckey shared more details about the awards to inform new commissioners.
 - 1. Commissioner Rose: What is the award?
 - a. Commissioner Stuckey: Certificate signed by Mayor Nichols, last year's awardees received a gift card as well.
 - 2. Commissioner Vaughn: When do nominations open?

- a. Commissioner Stuckey shared the committee is working to determine the nomination timeline.
- iii. Committee is moving forward with an op-ed about chronic absenteeism. Will have two speakers at the next committee meeting to bring data and information on this topic.
- d. Human Rights Commission
 - i. Commissioner McNeil reported that HRC is focusing on two goals.
 - 1. Goal 1: Improve Tulsa residents' access to the City of Tulsa Department of Resilience and Equity's resources by modernizing, streamlining, and removing barriers to the City of Tulsa's human rights complaint filing process.
 - 2. Goal 2: Increase diverse representation and equitable recruitment practices across all City of Tulsa authorities, boards, and commissions.
 - ii. Commissioner Rose asked what the HRC is. Commissioner McNeil clarified that HRC is a commission like GTAAAAC is, and she is the official GTAAAAC representative on the HRC.

VI. Old Business – no old business

VII. New Business

- a. Commission Engagement Opportunity: Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders Visit to Tulsa
 - i. Lexi provided information about the fellowship and shared an opportunity for commissioners to meet fellows during their tour of City Hall on June 23 at 1 pm. Chairman Dickens will be there and Commissioner Love volunteered to attend during the meeting. Anyone else who would like to attend should email Lexi to receive a calendar invite.

VIII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Keepin' it Reel Youth Film Camp with Circle Cinema (June 9 – 13) for 10 – 18 year olds.
- b. Circle Cinema Film Screening: Purple Rain (June 8)
- c. Commissioner Love shared a prominent issue in healthcare is education about Alzheimer's.
- d. All Black Towns Tour (June 14) with Tulsa City-Council Library tickets are \$55 on sale now at the Rudisill Library. Can also pay over the phone.
- e. Public Comments
 - i. Gary Breeckner: Black Wall Street Bike Rally May 15 – 17.
 - ii. City Councilor Jackie Dutton thanked the commission for welcoming her, working to be a good steward of the citizens in her district. Wants to be active with bringing community together.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to adjourn.



CITY EXPERIENCE
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

- i. Commissioner Ray made a motion, Commissioner Carter-Breeckner seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 11
- b. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.