



**Name:** Aurora African American Heritage Advisory Board  
**Date:** April 13, 2023  
**Time:** 5:30 pm  
**Location:** Aurora City Hall – 44 E. Downer Place Aurora, IL  
Mayor’s Office - 3rd Floor

## MINUTES

- I. Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 5:33 pm by Vice Chair Roberson. Chair welcomed new board member, Commissioner Curtis Wilson.
- II. Roll Call Present: Glenda Blakemore, Marc Dale, Deborah Goss-Johnson, Sandra Harrison, Pairlee Hunter, Cynthia Latimer, Marquell Oliver, Vice Chair Sharonda Roberson, Dr. Yolanda Stovall, Curtis Wilson, & Keith Wise. City Liaison Muhammad was also present.  
**Absent:** Chair William Whitfield, 11 present 1 absent
- III. Public Comments - Ricky Rodgers - Executive Director of African American Men of Unity thanked the board for past support of Juneteenth community event and requested support from AAHAB for the 2023 Juneteenth community event. Board members have the funding request packet submitted by AAMOU. AAMOU welcomes our input and invited us to attend their next meeting May 3rd - 6pm - Zoom link to be sent to the board.  
  
Ricky Rodgers - Human Relations Commissioner thanked the board for their work and presented a \$350 check from the Human Relations Commission in support of our programs.
- IV. Approval of Minutes – January 12, 2023 - Moved by Wise, seconded by Harrison to approve the January meeting minutes. Given no corrections they were approved by unanimous consent. February 09, 2023 - Moved by Blakemore, seconded by Goss-Johnson to approve the February meeting minutes. Given no corrections they were approved by unanimous consent.

### **Pillar Objectives to obtain the overarching AAAHAB goal of Advocacy ( Pillars: Awareness / Communication / Fundraising )**

- V. City Liaison Update: Standing item Financial Report & Additional Topics - Oral Report by Liaison Muhammad. The Heritage Dinner was a success. First time with sponsorship structure. Limitations in facility impacted attendance which transfers to donations. We had to turn people away. Finalized written report and budget update for both the Pageant and Heritage Dinner will be presented when all payments finalized. Some bills outstanding and additional donations came in just this week. Preliminary Juneteenth events were shared. Additional information highlighting events and activities was also shared. Special recognition of Commissioner Curtis Wilson for receiving the Governor’s Volunteer Service Award. He will be recognized April 27th in Springfield.
- VI. Unfinished Business
  - A. Juneteenth Activities
    - i. Sponsorship of APD Active Squad Juneteenth Wrap - Discussion and clarification about the squad wrap and possibility of shared funding between AAHAB, The City of Aurora, and the Aurora Police Department. Blakemore moved and Stovall Seconded for AAHAB to sponsor the Juneteenth squad car wrapping at the \$600 level. Roll Call: 9 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstain Commissioner Wilson since member of Civilian Review Board. Motion passed.

- ii. NOBLE - "Law and You" - Discussion about a community seminar as an action item to accompany the previous agenda Squad Car Wrap. Latimer moved Wise Seconded for AAHAB to sponsor the Law and You seminar in partnership with NOBLE. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. AAHAB Scholarship - Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley (CFFRV) - Follow up from last year, pro and con discussion about CFFRV process, options for students, and handling the financial part of AAHAB Scholarships. Scholarship Chair, Commissioner Blakemore and the scholarship committee support the CFFRV covering the back end of the scholarship process. No objection to more forward. Liaison Muhammad to follow up with CFFRV and invite to May meeting.

## VII. New Business

- A. Mr. & Miss: Process to access / Authorized events / Conduct notifications etc. - Discussion about the items above. Closure: Pageant committee open to new members. Committee to meet and design a form for others to access and request participation at authorized events. The form will be brought to the Executive Board and subsequently to the full Board. Commissioner Oliver reminded us the importance of data related to this event and future events to provide concrete information in measuring the efficacy & effectiveness of an event.
- B. Calendar for the Year Items - Chair Whitfield has reassigned this task to Secretary Latimer. She walked the board through the document. It is a fluid planning document allowing us to backwards map necessary tasks related to the implementation of identified board activities. Please provide any additions to Secretary Latimer.
- C. Team Building Event Ideas - Vice Chair Roberson shared the plan for Team Building event in June in place of a meeting. More details to follow.
- D. July AAHAB Meeting - AAHAB will not meet in July. Secretary Latimer will submit request to cancel the meeting.

## VIII. For the Good of the Board

- Board Calendar - See previous agenda item VII B.
- Secretary Latimer turned over the 14 AAHAB Kente stoles to Liaison Muhammad. He will add his stole to the pile. The stoles will be available for future use.
- Next month agenda - add AAMOU Juneteenth request - bring documents provided today
- Commissioner Wilson distributed copies of IL Municipal League Parliamentary Motion Guide
- Parliamentarian Robert's Rules Training - Commissioner Blakemore clarified that the training will be on scenarios or issues provided by the Chairman or Commissioners.
- Commissioners provided details on upcoming events
- Commissioners requested a copy of the AAHAB Bylaws. Secretary Latimer to scan and email to Commissioners.

## IX. Next Meeting – May 11 - 5:30 pm – City Hall

- X. Adjournment - Given no unfinished business, Vice Chair Roberson adjourned the meeting at 7:02pm

## Items for Future Meetings

- Parliamentarian Robert's Rules Training
- Rush Copley Board Request