



**Name:** Aurora African American Heritage Advisory Board  
**Date:** August 10, 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 5:43 pm by Chair Whitfield.
- II. Roll Call: Glenda Blakemore, Marc Dale, Deborah Goss-Johnson, Sandra Harrison, Pairlee Hunter, Cynthia Latimer, Marquell Oliver, Chair William Whitfield, Curtis Wilson, Keith Wise. City Liaison Muhammad was also present. **Excused Absent:** Dr. Yolanda Stovall  
**Unexcused Absent:** None 10 Present 1 Absent
- III. Public Comments - Commander Liz Robinson-Chan VP of NOBLE thanked AAHAB for the prior support and requested support of their September 08, 2023 Golf Outing Scholarship Fundraiser.
- IV. Approval of Minutes – May 11, 2023 - Moved by Commissioner Blakemore Second: Commissioner Harrison to accept the minutes as presented. 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 - Liaison Muhammad presented printed financial report - Balance \$18,575.78 and oral report of the following items:
  - expressed loss of Alderwoman Scheketa Hart-Burns and the re-naming of the Juneteenth Youth Summit to the Scheketa Hart-Burns Juneteenth Youth Summit.
  - details about the process to seat the 7th Ward Alderperson.
  - highlighted new superintendents and invited commissioners to attend an event to meet Aurora education leaders on 9/13 from 5 - 7 pm at Loft 28 - Ballydoyle.
- VI. Unfinished Business
  - A. Rush Copley Patient Board - Commissioner Wilson reported the following:
    - the proper name is Rush Copley Family Advisory Council.
    - he provided an update and explained the process for his onboarding.
    - he expects to be seated in August.
  - B. Community Foundation AAHAB Scholarship - The Board approved the move of the AAHAB scholarship to management by the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley-CFFRV. Additional details were provided: AAHAB will announce the scholarship, select the recipients, and award in February. The CFFRV will follow with all distribution processes. Chair Whitfield thanked Scholarship Committee Chair Blakemore for all of her efforts in a successful scholarship process.

## VII. New Business

- A. Motion to Accept Resignation - Commissioner Blakemore moved we accept with humbleness and gratitude the letter as submitted. Seconded by Commissioner Oliver  
Motion passed: unanimous.
- B. Nomination and Election of Officer Replacement - Secretary Latimer volunteered for the vacant position of vice chair. There were no other volunteers for this position therefore Latimer was elected as vice chair by acclamation. The floor was opened for self-nominations for the now vacant position of secretary. Commissioner Wilson nominated Commissioner Wise. Seconded by Commissioner Goss-Johnson. Commissioner Wise accepted. By unanimous consent, Commissioner Wise was elected as Secretary.
- C. 2023 100 Black Men Chicago College Fair - 10/14/23 - Secretary Latimer provided details on the October 14th event at UIC. Liaison Muhammad has a hold on the bus pending budget allocation. Discussed: event notice timeline September 7-14; registration will include request for GPA so that our students are eligible to be invited to the honors reception; a pre-event perhaps 9/21 or 28 to better prepare students for a productive experience; need to order more bags, lunch options, and a requirement that students must ride the bus to and from the college fair. Commissioners polled for availability to chaperone to include riding the bus. Firm commitments from Chair Whitfield, Commissioners Harrison, Goss-Johnson, and Wise, others are determining availability. D131 Superintendent Norrell and Director Asa Gordon also volunteered to chaperone. Committee established - Commissioners Dale, Hunter, Oliver, and Latimer. By unanimous consent we will move forward with a budget not to exceed \$3,000.00.
- D. 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Miss Puerto Rican Pageant Attendance - Table \$450 - Chair Whitfield provided details on the pageant including acknowledging the attendance of Mr. and Miss Black Aurora and recommended that AAHAB also adopt the utilization of a coordinator with pageant experience to run the processes and event of the pageant. Other commissioners who attended, Harrison, Latimer, and Wise also offered thoughts on take aways from the event. Their pageant was very well done and there are many ideas that we would like to implement. Commissioner Blakemore moved to pay the \$450 bill to Miss Puerto Rican Pageant. Seconded by Commissioner Dale. Motion passed: unanimously.
- E. Mr. & Miss Black Aurora - Discussion held and consensus on the following:
- Continue the pageant
  - Hire a coordinator to implement the pageant
  - Timeline: October to December - Recruitment / February - Announcement of Contestants / June - Pageant
  - Committee: Commissioners Harrison, Dale, Oliver. Notify if you want to serve.
  - Next meeting: Report from committee re: search committee expectations / budget
- F. Delta Sigma Theta College Fair - Commissioner Hunter presented details of their event and how AAHAB can support the event and expand communication.
- G. Black Fine Arts Month - Pigment International - AAHAB supported this event last year. Commissioner Harrison shared details and asked for suggestions on how AAHAB will engage for this October event. Discussion included adding events and tying to First Friday and the expected Grand Opening of Black Art establishments. Commissioner Harrison will be the lead in this area.

- H. Bylaws Committees - Chair Whitfield asked for a committee and chair to provide amendments at the December meeting. Commissioner Blakemore agreed to chair the committee. Commissioners Goss-Johnson, Hunter, and Wilson agreed to serve.
  
- VIII. Board Calendar - Commissioner Latimer indicated the calendar will continue to be updated.
  
- IX. For the Good of the Board - Commissioners shared upcoming activities. Commissioner Wilson requested a September agenda item, NOBLE - The Law and You. Chair Whitfield is the lead of the APD Youth Explorer Program and is requesting Commissioners get the word out and refer interested persons - 25 total students age 13-20.
  
- X. Next Meeting – September 14 - 5:30 pm
  
- XI. Adjournment - Given no unfinished business, Chair Whitfield adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.