



Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | January 14, 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, Tracye Love Chandler, Larissa McNeil, Jon Paul Ray, Maybelle Wallace, Kandy Whitley-White, Juddie Williams, Tony Williams

Commissioners Absent: David Harris, Burlinda Radney, Jameelah Stuckey, Kristi Williams

I. Call to Order and Introductions

- 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 November meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Wallace motioned, Commission Ray seconded.
 1. Aye: 9, Nay: 0
 - a. Commissioner Love Chandler, Commissioner Dennis, and Commissioner Whitley-White were not yet present in the meeting.
 - ii. Motion passed, November meeting minutes approved.

III. Guest Speaker: Brandon Oldham, George Kaiser Family Foundation

- a. Brandon passed out a handout highlighting the Invest North initiative. (Appendix 1)
- b. Invest North centers north Tulsa, focuses on a particular area of historic/current Black neighborhoods (Hawthorne and Whitman). Want to work alongside and behind residents and neighborhood-based organizations. Initiative began in 2022.
- c. Invest North's mission: thriving neighborhoods in north Tulsa
- d. Core Pathways: housing, community wellness, generational wealth, youth development
 - i. Investing in diverse & inclusive housing options that honor community needs.
 - ii. Investing in entrepreneurship and workforce development to empower economic growth.
 - iii. Accessible, high-quality resources and services that meet basic needs, nurture wellbeing, and foster a thriving, connected community for all residents.
 - iv. Education and youth programs.
- e. Methods: defining success, placemaking, breaking silos, and capacity building
- f. Goal: double families earning a living wage by 2035.
- g. This area is large enough to be a small town, and it's looking for a town center. Could be 36th Street corridor.
- h. Envision Comanche: housing dedicated to community revitalization and equity.
 - i. \$190M investment
 - ii. Community-centered transformation

iii. Includes: housing & infrastructure development, community revitalization, and equity

i. Additional Investments

i. Northside Neighbors: resident-led organization driving collaborative efforts to revitalize North Tulsa

ii. Wilshire Trails Development: 30 home development with Green Country Habitat for Humanity

iii. Revitalizing Community Spaces: Chamberlain & Berry Parks

iv. Flat Rock Creek Trails: protecting 200 acres of natural landscape and create opportunities for outdoor recreation.

v. Due North Tulsa Program: partnership with Madison Strategies Group currently under redevelopment.

j. Commission Q&A

i. Public question: How are you combatting gentrification?

1. Brandon: Centering legacy residents, the goal is not attracting new residents, though folks will be more interested in moving to this area, it is for legacy residents to benefit.

ii. Public question: What is the timeline for the project?

1. Brandon shared timelines for several projects currently underway.

iii. Commissioner Dennis: Will the Flat Rock Creek Trails be rentable?

1. Brandon: Want it to be free for community use.

iv. Commissioner Wallace: How are you ensuring housing affordability?

1. Brandon: Housing prices will be in the \$200-250k range.

v. Commissioner Whitley-White: Be Well CDC has helped families get into lower price housing, yet there is a need for median-income housing stock in north Tulsa. Not as many programs or housing availability. Is this something Invest North is taking on?

1. Brandon: Be Well CDC's success has been a learning opportunity, proving north Tulsa be a neighborhood of choice. Need more housing stock. So yes, this is something we are thinking of.

vi. Commissioner Love Chandler: Where will your offices be?

1. Brandon: To the west of the Osage Trail near 36th St N.

IV. Commissioner Oath of Office

a. Lexi passed around a document for commissioners to sign the oath of office. All commissioners present signed.

V. Chair Report

a. Chairman Dickens reflected on 2024, which was a good year for the commission. There was focused and intention work done through committees. Acknowledged committee chairs for driving that work.

- b. Chairman Dickens reminded commissioners to utilize the newsletter as a tool to share about the commission's work. Read the 2024 EOY report so you are familiar with the accomplishments of the commission.
- c. Will work on the 2025 calendar in committees after adjourning tonight's meeting.
- d. Vice Chair Humphrey passed out commission preference sign up sheets. Chairman Dickens requested everyone fill it out and turn into him before leaving tonight. If you are willing to serve as a chair or co-chair, indicate that as well.
- e. Elevated the National Day of Racial Healing Equity Dialogue opportunity from MORE. Will be helpful for networking with other commissions.
- f. Opened the floor for commissioners to share what they need from him as chair. Several shared gratitude for his service and engagement.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Policy Recommendations
 - i. Commissioner Dennis: The committee has discussed ways to coordinate with Beyond Apology Commission. Working on a proposal and discussing transportation policy to introduce.
- b. Community Engagement and Culture Promotion
 - i. Commissioner McNeil: The committee is working on a spoken word contest. Reached out to Tulsa Juneteenth to include in the event lineup, have a yes and working out details. Meeting early February to solidify.
 - ii. Trouble in Mind with Theatre North doing four shows in February.
 - iii. Whenever you have items to include in newsletter, send to Commissioner McNeil.
 - iv. Krystal: City participating in MLK parade, commissioners invited to join.
- c. Education and Skill Building
 - i. Commissioner Love: Committee had its monthly meeting last week, discussed programs and collaboration opportunities.
 - ii. Commissioner Juddie Williams: The committee discussed reading literacy, chronic absenteeism, and family engagement as focus for committee in 2025. Considering collaborating with Reading Partners and creating a guide for family engagement. Cross-commission education committees are meeting to collaborate on Thursday, will discuss FAFSA and OK Promise (coincides with Dr. Johnson's presentation).
 - iii. Chairman Dickens recognized the excellent and organized work of the Education Committee.
- d. Human Rights Commission
 - i. Commissioner McNeil: HRC hasn't met since November, which was the Humanitarian of the Year Award Ceremony. Will have updates next month.

VII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Lexi shared an update on the National Day of Racial Healing art contest for Tulsa Public Schools high school students. Received several submissions and a panel of judges is

deliberating who the winner will be. Winner will be visited at their school by Dr. Johnson and Mayor Nichols.

- b. Lexi shared two upcoming events from other commissions.
 - i. Asian Affairs Commission: Lunar New Year Festival on Saturday, February 1 from 6 – 9 pm at 101 Archer
 - ii. Human Rights Commission's 2SLGBTQIA+ Committee: Know Your Rights Education Forum on Thursday, January 30 from 6 – 7:30 pm at Centennial Center in Veteran's Park.
- c. Commissioner Juddie Williams highlighted the Nexus Boards & Commissions Leadership Institute from the January email blast sent by Lexi.
- d. Commissioner Juddie Williams shared several upcoming community events.
 - i. Illuminating Black Brilliance at Circle Cinema
 - ii. Black Rodeo coming to Tulsa Saturday, February 8 at Expo Square
 - iii. Afrofest 2025: celebrating culture and commerce February 1 at Greenwood Cultural Center
- e. Commissioner Love Chandler shared two upcoming community events.
 - i. Out of Africa event with Alzheimer's Diversity Outreach Services on February 21
 - ii. Sweethearts Ball on February 15
- f. Several Public Comments were shared by community attendees.
 - i. Board member and new Executive Director of Tulsa Legacy Charter School spoke. The Executive Director offered to welcome commissioners at the school.
 - ii. Educator shared information about North Star Academy
 - iii. Kyra Carby spoke about her work as the Community Genealogy Grant Coordinator at the City and noted she will share invites for the genealogy process.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Commissioner Humphrey made a motion, Commissioner Dennis seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 12, Nay: 0
- b. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.



InvestNorth

EXPANDING PATHWAYS
TO PROSPERITY



GKFF’s InvestNorth Initiative drives transformational opportunities for families in historically Black North Tulsa neighborhoods, honoring the legacy of 36th Street North. We partner with residents and organizations to create thriving communities.

Vision

Thriving neighborhoods where residents prosper.

Goal

Double the number of North Tulsa families earning a living wage by 2035.

Core Pathways



Housing

Diverse, affordable options to prevent displacement and promote healthy living.



Generational Wealth

Entrepreneurship and workforce development for sustained Black wealth.



Community Wellness

Accessible services to support well-being.



Youth Development

Education and programs for children’s success.

Our Approach



Capacity Building

Shared learning to expand perspectives.



Breaking Silos

Coordinated investments for sustainable impact.



Defining Success

Data-driven collaboration for shared outcomes.



Placemaking

Resident-led reactivation of built environments.

Neighborhood Snapshot

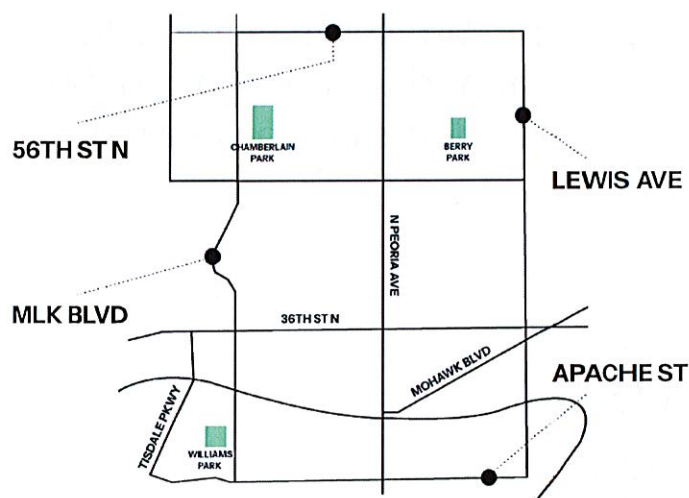
11,970
Residents

4,141
Households

5,329
School-aged
children

\$70K
Median home
value

40%
Tax-exempt properties



Our Investments



- **Northside Neighbors:**
Engaging residents in Hawthorne and Whitman neighborhoods to address education, housing, wellness, and economic vitality.
- **Envision Comanche:**
A \$190M investment transforming the 36th Street North corridor into a vibrant, mixed-income community with a right-to-return policy.
- **Park Revitalizations:**
Resident-driven upgrades to Berry and Chamberlain Parks, addressing safety and enhancing community spaces.