



Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | April 8, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Patricia Carter-Breeckner, Marquess Dennis, Dewayne Dickens, Brian Humphrey, Margaret Love, Tracye Love Chandler, Larissa McNeil, Maybelle Wallace, Juddie Williams, Tony Williams

Commissioners Absent: David Harris, Jon Paul Ray, Jameelah Stuckey, Kristi Williams

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairman Dickens called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to approve the March meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Love motioned, Commissioner McNeil seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0
 - a. Commissioners Dennis and Love Chandler were not yet present in the meeting.
 - ii. Motion carried, March meeting minutes approved.

III. Chair Report

- a. City Councilor Reach Out Regarding Black Voice Representation
 - i. Chairman Dickens distributed a packet reflecting conversations he's had with City Counselors. Reminded the commission he'd like them to reach out to all City Counselors to engage them in conversations.
 - 1. Of the nine districts, six have 5,000+ African Americans residing in that district. Emailed Counselors to ask what they are doing to engage the African American community.
 - ii. Hoping to see commissioners more intentionally touching base with City Counselors to see if they are aware of issues. Additionally, commissioners are connected to other organizations that include and represent African American voices.
 - iii. Chairman Dickens passed around a paper for commissioners to indicate which City Council district in which they live.
- b. City Commissioner Survey for Black Voice Representation
 - i. Prompt to Commission: Think of two organizations you belong to. How can you bring those voices into GTAAAC?
 - ii. Chairman Dickens will reach out to receive responses from Commissioners to identify five organizations they are connected with and who at that organization they will connect with to hear their perspective.

- c. Black Voices by the Numbers
 - i. Chairman Dickens emphasized that Commissioners can promote the importance of showing up and voting. There is power in numbers, and when the African American community shows up, it matters.
 - 1. Commissioner Dennis raised the idea of showing first-time or hesitant voters a sample ballot, so they feel comfortable with what the ballot looks like before they go vote.
 - 2. Commissioner McNeil: How do we address apathetic voters? Big issue, especially in Oklahoma.
 - a. Chairman Dickens: People tend to be influenced by their peers.
 - b. Commissioner Love mentioned experience she has educating folks in a group setting and meeting them where they're at.
 - c. Commissioner Dennis suggested showing people the data on voter turnout, demonstrating that low turnout means fewer people have input on the decision being voted on.
 - 3. Commissioner Wallace noted the importance of informed voters—people deserve to know what they're voting on.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Policy Recommendations
 - i. Commissioner Dennis passed around a handout highlighting the two main issues the Policy Committee are focusing on: housing and infrastructure.
 - ii. Will appear at a series of events and working on a project striving to increase availability of affordable housing in North Tulsa. Want to educate the community on projects that are taking place and to come.
 - iii. Want to publish two op eds this year, one focused on the policy of housing and the other on the importance of infrastructure. Aim to pitch to three different publications.
 - 1. Chairman Dickens reminded commissioners that they can publish articles on their personal social media channels. Will need messaging vetted through GTAAAC. Commissioner Dennis affirmed that nothing will be sent out with commission approval.
- b. Community Engagement and Culture Promotion
 - i. Commissioner McNeil reported the committee is on their way with the spoken word contest. Sent initial communications to all middle and high school principals and deans. Have a final meeting with Tulsa Juneteenth next week to solidify programming.
 - ii. Reminder to send Commissioner McNeil newsletter submissions by the first Friday of each month to be included.

iii. Commissioner Wallace passed out a flyer for Theatre North's next show.

c. Education and Skill Building

i. Commissioner Juddie Williams reported that the committee is shifting focus from a partnership with Reading Partners in light of Tulsa Public Schools not renewing their contract. Encouraged commissioners to look into Oklahoma Senate Bill 245.

ii. Chronic absenteeism has been removed from the state school report card; however, regular attendance is vital to achieve education attainment.

iii. Mayor Nichols is conducting a series of Community Conversations, encouraging commissioners to attend. Created a signup form for commissioners to indicate which conversation(s) they will attend, opportunity for commissioners to represent GTAAAC and table.

d. Human Rights Commission

i. Commissioner McNeil shared that Nathan Pickard presented at the March HRC meeting to share about his role.

ii. Fair Housing Committee is doing a lot of work to make information accessible to different identity groups.

V. Old Business – no old business

VI. New Business

a. Review and Vote: GTAAAC AI Policy for Committee Meetings

i. Chairman Dickens shared context for the reason for establishing an AI Use Policy.

ii. In virtual committee meetings, want a committee member to take notes, not AI. The chair has the ability to determine if AI assistants are permitted in a virtual meeting.

iii. Opened the floor for discussion. Some commissioners expressed appreciation for this policy.

iv. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to adopt the GTAAAC AI Use Policy.

1. Vice Chair Humphrey motioned, Commissioner Carter-Breeckner seconded.

a. Aye: 9, Nay: 0

i. Commissioner McNeil was not present when the motion was made.

2. Motion carried, GTAAAC AI Use Policy adopted.

VII. Announcements / Public Comments

a. DVIS Monarch Ball on May 2 at Arvest Convention Center at 6 pm

b. April 26: BINGO Financial Health Awareness with Ashley Townsend at Chase

c. Commissioner Love raised a challenge that seniors are facing with rising rent prices.



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Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

- d. April 26: Park Crawl with Birthright Living Legacy at Whiteside Park
- e. June 13: Father of the Year Celebration with Birthright Living Legacy
- f. June 14: African American Resource Center 26th Annual Black Towns Tour.
Tickets go on sale May 5, costs \$55.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Commissioner Dennis made a motion, Commissioner Love Chandler seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 10
- b. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.