



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

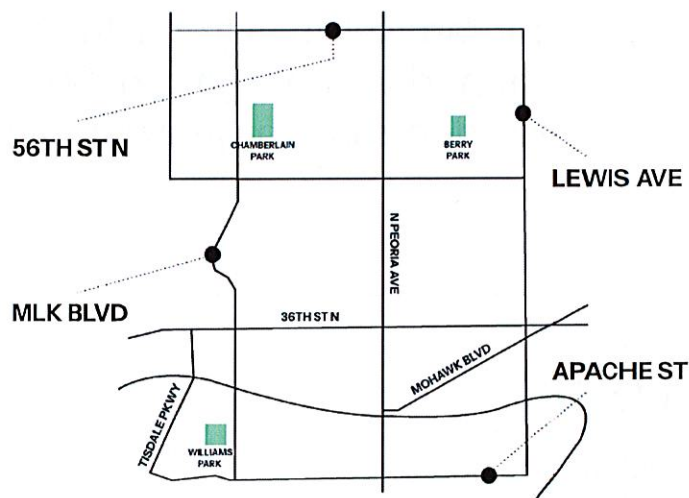
11,970
Residents

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.



Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | February 11, 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, Burlinda Radney, Jon Paul Ray, Maybelle Wallace, Juddie Williams

Commissioners Absent: David Harris, Larissa McNeil, Jameelah Stuckey, Kandy Whitley-White, Kristi Williams, Tony Williams

I. Call to Order and Introductions

- a. Chairman Dickens called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. A quorum was not yet present.

II. Guest Speaker: Erran Persley, Chief Economic Development Director at City of Tulsa

- a. Erran introduced himself and discussed his role at City of Tulsa.
- b. Notable projects recently announced for Tulsa:
 - i. Tulsa Space Testing Center: The first rocket thruster testing facility in the country, will attract other aerospace companies to Tulsa. Average salary for jobs will be \$67 – 70k.
 - ii. Crusoe: An artificial intelligence project that makes switches for large data centers. Will bring about 100 new jobs.
 - iii. NorSun: Norwegian company moving to Tulsa that manufactures a part for solar panels.
 - iv. Tulsa Hills Marketplace
 - v. Kirkpatrick Heights Greenwood: City has given funding and acreage to a Community Development Corporation, enabling the community to make decisions about what happens in their neighborhood.
 - vi. Convention Center Hotel: Will have 500 – 600 rooms and create 400 new permanent jobs. Goal is to have hotel open by 2029.
 - vii. Education Begins with Home Initiative: Collaboration between Green Country Habitat for Humanity and Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) to provide \$50,000 in down payment assistance to TPS teachers for the purchase of a home through Habitat's homebuyer program.
 - viii. Zink Lake opening
- c. Housing and transportation options need to reflect the reality of our city.
 - i. 26% of Tulsa households include children.
 - ii. More than 13,500 Tulsa households have no vehicle available.
- d. Challenges:

- i. How do we ensure that everyone benefits from the economic development boom in Tulsa?
 - 1. Opportunity for the Commission to advise.
- ii. Building the workforce of the future at the earliest stages of education. What are the future opportunities we need to prepare our children for?
- iii. Rebuilding local communities with local talent and skills. How can we ensure the people in a community are working on the projects?
- iv. Creating an even playing field so everyone is competitive.
- e. Ask for commission input:
 - i. Community history and dynamics.
 - ii. How do we think a different way to ensure inclusion and equity?
- f. Commission Discussion:
 - i. Commissioner Love: What is the plan to train current Tulsa residents to be ready for the new jobs?
 - 1. Erran: Most people for several of these projects will be hired locally. Must get people qualified for those jobs, so in conversation with the companies to learn what training is needed. Working with local colleges, though not all jobs require college education.
 - ii. Commissioner Ray: Colleges sometimes create specialized training programs to fill an upcoming gap in the job market and encourage students to build needed skills to be hired. Can guarantee a job to students and certain salary. Benefits community and companies.
 - 1. Erran: In conversation with TPS about virtual reality training programs so students can have experiences while in high school.
 - iii. Commissioner Dennis: There is such a focus on children and families, but most households in Tulsa don't have children. What challenges come up because of that?
 - 1. Erran: Need to shift our mindset around what types of housing is needed (ie: single-family homes are not as needed as apartments). Encourage more density in housing development projects.
 - iv. Commissioner Carter-Breeckner: Can you share more about the Kirkpatrick Heights project?
 - 1. Erran: The CDC is fully operational, currently visioning for the site. Companies are already looking at it for development. Anticipate process will go relatively quickly, could have development on that site by this time next year. Decisions made and funds generated belong to the CDC.
 - v. Commissioner Love Chandler: Heard a hospital will be built downtown near the convention center hotel, do you anticipate anything will be affected?



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1. Erran: Don't anticipate it will be affected. Looking to make the entire convention center and arena area of downtown more developed and attractive.
- vi. Commissioner Radney: Assume the households with children younger. Families often move to suburbs when children get older. There used to be a youth employment service for younger folks to find jobs. Unsure if something like that exists now.
 1. Erran: The mayor announced the new Office of Children, Youth, and Families today. Having a program like that will greatly help our city's youth.
 2. Commissioner Radney: Would be nice to have more formalized program to engage youth.
- vii. Vice Chair Humphrey: Is it perceived as an issue or opportunity that most households in Tulsa do not have children?
 1. Erran: Opportunity, this is who we are as a city. Must know the data.
- viii. Chairman Dickens: Great to see the development downtown and near Greenwood. Are there plans to go further into north Tulsa to develop those areas?
 1. Erran: Having conversations about how to attract the right kind of companies to come to that area. Not prioritizing big box stores. Want to encourage more local people to invest in the area, and more small and medium size businesses. There is an infrastructure challenge.
- ix. Commissioner Love Chandler: With the growth in the next five years, feel good about existing organizations (such as Urban Coders Guild) and programs that are preparing students for the future.
 1. Erran: Need to better connect organizations doing good work together to expand impact and share ideas.
- x. Erran offered to connect with commissioners or host a working session to discuss further.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to approve the January meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Dennis motioned, Commissioner Love seconded.
 1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, January meeting minutes approved.

IV. New Business

- a. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to revise the order of the agenda to address New Business next.
 - i. Commissioner Wallace made a motion, Commissioner Humphrey seconded.
 1. Aye: 10, Nay 0
 - ii. Motion carried, the Commission proceeded with New Business.

- b. Commissioner Radney shared that it is time for her to roll off the Commission, and it has truly been a privilege to serve. Represent the Business and Agents and Networking Group (BANG) on the Commission, now have a National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) focused on African American realtors. Made a recommendation to Chairman Dickens to replace BANG seat with NAREB seat.
- c. Chairman Dickens thanked Commissioner Radney for her service on the Commission.
- d. The commission will work with the Mayor towards the recommendation that Commissioner Radney has provided.

V. Chair Report

- a. Chairman Dickens noted we will continue to fill Commission seats and solidify the calendar of events. Want the Commission to be driven by the committees, so calendars should be clear and attainable.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Policy Recommendations
 - i. Commissioner Dennis: Discussed possible committee goals in the last committee meeting. Need members to fill out their surveys to narrow focus for the year. Also discussed how GTAAAC can engage in policy.
 - ii. Will identify who will take the lead on connecting with other commissions.
 - iii. Commissioner Dennis suggested Commissioner Kristi Williams would make a good Policy Committee co-chair. Chairman Dickens noted that attendance at Commission meetings are important if someone is to lead a committee.
- b. Community Engagement and Culture Promotion
 - i. Commissioner Wallace: Commissioner McNeil created a wonderful newsletter. Had planned to meet this past month and weren't able to.
 - ii. Chairman Dickens: When there's a product you're producing every month, it speaks for itself. Activity is visible.
 - iii. Commissioner Wallace: Trouble in Mind is February 15 and 16 at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center. About a Black actress who is auditioning for a play on Broadway.
- c. Education and Skill Building
 - i. Commissioner Juddie Williams: Met last week, working to refine 2025 goals and determining how to support Black and African American families in schools. Considering literacy, chronic absenteeism, and family engagement.
 - ii. Commissioners Juddie Williams and Stuckey attended a cross-commission education meeting with education committee members of other Title V Commissions. Discussed past, present, and future of each commission's support of educational outcomes. Will meet again in April to identify actionable ways to collaborate.
 - iii. Commissioner Carter-Breeckner: Also working on a resource guide for families.

iv. Commissioner Radney: Much has changed under the new presidential administration. Tulsa Public Schools's Superintendent has affirmed safety of all children in schools. Has the commission considered a letter of support to the district?

1. Commissioner Love Chandler added the efforts to dismantle the Department of Education.
2. Chairman Dickens: That has not been discussed yet, something for the Policy and/or Education Committees to take on.
3. Commissioner Radney: This issue is important, especially when discussing how to retain people in Tulsa.
4. Chairman Dickens: Committees can determine the avenue they'd like to take. Can be a letter of support, panel discussion, or op-ed.

d. Human Rights Commission

- i. Lexi provided an update from the Human Rights Commission's January meeting, which included the 2025 Lifetime of Compassionate Service Award Ceremony—honoring Mike Brose—and a presentation from Human Rights Commissioner and Asian Affairs Commissioner Parisa Pilehvar on the intersection of literacy and civic engagement.

VII. Old Business – no old business

VIII. Announcements / Public Comments

a. Public Comments:

- i. Member of the public shared information about the 2025 winter commencement for Tulsa Public Schools. Also conducting a survey of students' post-grad needs.
- ii. Jaymie Collum, Community Engagement Coordinator at Municipal Court introduced herself and spoke about her goals to build community connections.

IX. Adjournment

a. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to adjourn.

- i. Commissioner Dennis made a motion, Commissioner Ray seconded.

1. Aye: 10

b. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.



CITY EXPERIENCE
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | March 11, 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, Larissa McNeil, Jon Paul Ray, Jameelah Stuckey, Maybelle Wallace, Juddie Williams, Tony Williams

Commissioners Absent: David Harris, Tracye Love Chandler, Kristi Williams

I. Call to Order and Introductions

- a. Chairman Dickens called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to approve the February meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Ray motioned, Commissioner Stuckey seconded.
 1. Aye: 9, Nay: 0
 2. Commissioners Carter-Breekner and McNeil were not yet present in the meeting.
 - ii. Motion carried, February meeting minutes approved.

III. Chair Report

- a. Chairman Dickens noted that commissioners should pick up their name tags. When commissioners represent GTAAAC at an event, wear your name tag; however, if you are not officially representing GTAAAC do not wear the name tag.
- b. Chairman Dickens highlighted priorities as chair:
 - i. Filling seats with active commissioners.
 1. Reflected that the community this commission represents has challenges and successes, and it's important to represent both in a balanced way to the Mayor's Office. Active commissioners are key to this.
 2. Commissioners who no longer have the capacity to serve are encouraged to be on a committee.
 - ii. Review committees.
 1. Committees have been working to identify priorities. Need to turn into Chairman Dickens.
 2. Identify what committee members can realistically accomplish with the expertise on the committee that will make an impact and is relevant to GTAAAC.



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3. Commitments from all commissioners are due by the end of March to facilitate quarterly activities for the rest of the year.
4. Committee chairs:
 - a. Education & Skill Building: Commissioners Love and Stuckey
 - b. Community Engagement & Culture Promotion: Commissioners Wallace and McNeil
 - c. Policy Recommendations: Commissioners Dennis and Ray
- iii. Vice Chair Humphrey commends committees for their work and commitment this year.
- c. Chairman Dickens noted this is his last year as Chair. Knows some folks are interested in becoming Chair, will offer opportunities to understand the work that goes into this role.
 - i. Invited commissioners to express interest via email.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Policy Recommendations
 - i. Vice Chair Humphrey highlighted that a group of committee members met with D.R. Horton, the largest housing development company in the nation, which has recently begun work in Greenwood. Navigating issues of feasibility, affordability, and community impact.
 1. Average price currently \$290,000, looking to build about 200 homes.
 2. Seeking subsidies to make the costs more affordable. Approached Department of Permits and Development Services and GTAAAC to explore opportunities.
 3. Opportunity for GTAAAC to facilitate community input and propose something to the Mayor's Office.
 4. Vice Chair Humphrey disclosed he knows individuals with D.R. Horton through other personal business ventures.
 5. Commissioner Dennis noted this is an opportunity to align with Mayor Nichols's housing priority.
 - ii. Commissioner Dennis introduced a committee member in the audience.
 - iii. Commissioner Dennis shared that City Councilors want GTAAAC to elevate any opportunities for alignment and support to them. Will be determining priorities for 2025 soon. Want to see GTAAAC lead an initiative and bring others in.
- b. Community Engagement and Culture Promotion
 - i. Commissioner McNeil reported the spoken word contest winners will not be able to perform at Tulsa Juneteenth due to the festival schedule;



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however, the contest will be included in the official lineup and promotional materials.

1. Will roll out the contest to schools starting in April so students have April and May to submit their poems.
- ii. Send information for the newsletter to Commissioner McNeil by the first Friday of the month to be included.
- c. Education and Skill Building
 - i. Commissioner Stuckey shared that Lori Long from Junior Achievement Oklahoma was a guest speaker at the March committee meeting.
 - ii. Tulsa Public Schools and Tulsa Regional Chamber are collaborating on a program to support students who are college-bound. Will share the link with Lexi to send out.
 - iii. Discussed parameters for this year's Black Educator Excellence Awards in the March committee meeting.
 - iv. Using existing resources to compile a family resource guide supporting literacy.
 - v. GTAAAC's June speaker will be Dr. Laura Latta and the November speaker will be Dion'trae Hayes.
- d. Human Rights Commission – no report

V. **Old Business**

- a. Status of Open Commission Seats
 - i. Chairman Dickens noted there are two commissioners who recently stepped down. Additionally, the Black Wall Street Chamber's seat has been approved for a few months and they are working on the necessary paperwork to appoint a representative to that seat. 15 seats filled, 8 are open.
 - ii. If you know individuals who would be a good fit to serve on the commission—whether in an individual or organization seat—please send those recommendations to Chairman Dickens.

VI. **New Business** – no new business

VII. **Announcements / Public Comments**

- a. State of Black Tulsa Summit on Saturday, March 15 from 9:30 – 2:00 at 36 Street North Event Center. Chairman Dickens encouraged commissioners to attend.
- b. There were two public comments.

VIII. **Adjournment**

- a. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Commissioner Ray made a motion, Commissioner Tony Williams seconded.
 1. Aye: 11
- b. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.



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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.



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- 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.



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- 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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- 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.



CITY EXPERIENCE
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

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.



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- 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.



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- 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?



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Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

- 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.



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



CITY EXPERIENCE
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | June 10, 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, Tracye Love Chandler, Jon Paul Ray, Donald Rose, Mikeal Vaughn, Maybelle Wallace, Juddie Williams, Tony Williams

Commissioners Absent: Marquess Dennis, David Harris, Larissa McNeil, Jameelah Stuckey

I. Call to Order

- a. Vice Chair Humphrey called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Vice Chair Humphrey entertained a motion to approve the May meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Rose motioned, Chairman Dickens seconded.
 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0
 - a. Commissioner Vaughn and two other commissioners were not yet present in the meeting.
 - ii. Motion carried, May meeting minutes approved.

III. Guest Speaker: Dr. Laura Latta, Executive Director of Tulsa Higher Education Consortium

- a. The Tulsa Higher Education Consortium (THEC) is comprised of nine colleges and universities across northeastern Oklahoma. THEC supports students through their education journey.
 - i. Half of higher education learners are adult learners.
- b. THEC serves as a:
 - i. Convener: communities of practice, student groups
 - ii. Communicator: degree directory, transfer portal, FAFSA, scholarship search
 - iii. Connector: youth housing program, transfer touchpoints
- c. Want to demystify the process of earning a degree.
 - i. At Martin and Rudisill Libraries every Tuesday and Thursday to help students and families with their FAFSA and other questions.
- d. Track record of success:
 - i. 2018 Tulsa Transfer Project
 - ii. 2021 THEC's launch with communities of practice
 - iii. 2022 Expansion of student outreach (FAFSA, Transfers, OK promise)
 - iv. 2023 Student support program (Youth Housing Program)



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1. \$77k+ distributed for student rental assistance and \$277k distributed for student support services.
- v. 2024 Aligning training, talent, and workforce (Tuition Assistance Benefits, Tech Hubs)
- vi. 2025 Evolving higher education landscape
- e. Commission Discussion
 - i. Commissioner Love Chandler: Are you actively seeking partnership with other higher education institutions?
 1. Dr. Latta: There are some criteria that exist to be part of THEC, and based on that would look at other opportunities to collaborate.
 - ii. Vice Chair Humphrey: How do students reach out to you for services?
 1. Dr. Latta: Sometimes get calls from students, but primarily from high school or college campuses inviting THEC to come provide information.
 - iii. Commissioner Vaughn: Is there also transportation support to students?
 1. Dr. Latta: This is something THEC is trying to solve. There is currently a limited amount of transportation support. Conducted a survey of students who they support with housing and almost all also had inconsistent transportation, so there is a need.
 - iv. Chairman Dickens: What are the demographics of individuals being supported by THEC, especially those who tend to underperform or be underrepresented in higher education?
 1. Dr. Latta didn't have exact percentages, but majority of students are first-generation college students. The majority of students supported by the housing program have recently exited the foster care system or are first-generation students. With FAFSA outreach, support many students with complicated situations such as single parents or mixed immigration status families.
 - v. Commissioner Love Chandler asked if there is a maximum number of students THEC can support a year, Dr. Latta responded that it is ongoing.
 - vi. Vice Chair Humphrey asked if they are 100% federally funded, Dr. Latta said no, they have a mixture of dues, federal grants, local philanthropic funding, and national foundations.

IV. Guest Speaker: Carlos Moreno, Client Advocate at 9b Corp

- a. 9b Corp is a Certified B Corporation, meaning they provide a public benefit.
 - i. Have a verified score of 113.9, higher than the required 80.
 - ii. Recognized in 2022 as Best for the World by Governance by B Lab.
 - iii. Public outcome data helps communities identify systemic challenges, determine efforts and resources that make the biggest impact, and break down silos.



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1. Public data is transparent, accountable, objective, collaborative, newsworthy
- iv. One example is Office of the Surgeon General's report on the epidemic of loneliness and isolation. Lacking social connection is as dangerous as smoking a pack of cigarettes a day.
- b. Neighborhood Explorer
 - i. Public data on Neighborhood Explorer makes information actionable.
 - ii. Offer a map view of data. Can see disparities by geography, determine areas of greatest need, and view outcome data of a specific area of interest.
 - iii. Data is clean, reliable, and current. Shows sources for all data.
 - iv. Creating an ecosystem for collecting and sharing data to more people can understand solutions that can work in our community.
 - v. Demonstrated Neighborhood Explorer by taking a priority of GTAAAC and looking at data on median household income, labor force participation rate by zip code and census tracts.
 1. Can filter data by ethnicity, race, and gender.
 - vi. 9b is in conversation with the Tulsa Library to make Neighborhood Explorer available through them as well.
- c. Commission Discussion
 - i. Vice Chair Humphrey asked about 9b's funding sources, Carlos shared their primary income source is contracts when organizations (mostly foundations) pay them to complete a research project.
 - ii. Commissioner Rose noted that 9b Corps offers office hours at the Black Wall Street Chamber of Commerce.

V. Vice Chair Report

- a. Vice Chair Humphrey reminded everyone that next month is a break from commission meetings, will return in August.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Policy Recommendations - no report
- b. Community Engagement and Culture Promotion - no report
- c. Education and Skill Building
 - i. Commissioner Juddie Williams reported that in this month's Education Committee meeting, Collin Medwick with Tulsa Public Schools showed data on chronic absenteeism in Black community and the committee discussed solutions.
 - ii. Save the Date: Black Education Excellence Awards on Tuesday, Oct 28th at 6 pm.
- d. Human Rights Commission - no report

VII. Old Business – no old business



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Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

VIII. New Business

- a. Vice Chair Humphrey acknowledged Mayor Nichols's Road to Repair announcement, which the Beyond Apology Commission is involved in. Encouraged commissioners to engage with this work.

IX. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Chairman Dickens acknowledged the commissioners who tabled at Black Wall Street Legacy Fest over Memorial Weekend as well as the Go Green for Greenwood initiative. These kinds of things are important to build a network within the community.

X. Adjournment

- a. Vice Chair Humphrey entertained a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Commissioner Love made a motion, Commissioner Ray seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 11, Nay: 0
- b. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.



Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | August 12, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:30 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, Jon Paul Ray, Jameelah Stuckey, Mikeal Vaughn, Maybelle Wallace, Juddie Williams, Tony Williams, Ray'Chel Wilson

Commissioners Absent: David Harris, Kristi Williams

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairman Dickens called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Guest Speaker: District 1 City Councilor Vanessa Hall-Harper

- a. Councilor Hall-Harper passed out letters raising concerns about the Greenwood Leadership Community Development Corporation (GLCDC).
 - i. One letter from herself, (Appendix 1)
 - ii. District 73 State Representative Ronald Stewart,
 - iii. Standpipe Hill Strategies,
 - iv. Be Good Development Partners (Franchell Abdalla), and
 - v. The last letter from herself and co-signed by several faith leaders (Appendix 2)
- b. Councilor Hall-Harper read her first letter dated June 12, 2025 aloud.
 - i. Provided background about PartnerTulsa as an entity.
 - ii. Has concerns that five people have already been seated on the GLCDC without community input. Only four seats are still available.
- c. Working to raise awareness of this issue, asking for GTAAAC's support.
- d. Commission Discussion:
 - i. Commissioner Dennis: What is the process to move ownership of the property?
 1. Councilor Hall-Harper: The Tulsa Development Authority (TDA) will vote to transfer ownership. Would like to see them put the land under the Greenwood Trust and not GLCDC.
 - ii. Vice Chair Humphrey: Has the Greenwood Trust been established?
 1. Councilor Hall-Harper: Yes, the Mayor is in the process of setting up the trust and it's pretty much complete. He has promised he will ensure there is community leadership on the board.
 - iii. Commissioner Ray asked a question about the location of the property. Councilor Hall-Harper shared the land is 56 acres and most is along Cincinnati and Greenwood. Folks can google Kirkpatrick Heights-Greenwood Master Plan (KHGMP) to see where the land is.



- iv. Commissioner Love asked if the KHGMP is still in place, and Councilor Hall-Harper clarified that it is. KHGMP was a community-led plan and she still supports it continuing.
- v. Commissioner Dennis: Are we looking to help get those four seats filled?
 - 1. Councilor Hall-Harper is not supporting GLCDC at all.
- vi. Councilor Hall-Harper clarified that TDA and Tulsa Authority for Economic Opportunity (TAEO) can vote to transfer the land to the Greenwood Trust instead of GLCDC.
- vii. Vice Chair Humphrey asked a clarifying question about if Councilor Hall-Harper is addressing the land or also funds, Councilor Hall-Harper said her focus is on the land.
- viii. Commissioner Love: Who elected the board members?
 - 1. Councilor Hall-Harper: PartnerTulsa selected them behind closed doors.
- ix. Councilor Hall-Harper is asking for organizations and entities to have a voice in how this land will be developed—some of the last land in Greenwood that has an opportunity like this.
- x. Chairman Dickens: What is needed to ensure a successful TDA vote?
 - 1. Councilor Hall-Harper: Land that is owned by TDA and is being transferred has to go to a vote. Folks can look at the lots of land that are up for vote in their agendas. This specific land is not on the agenda yet, as PartnerTulsa still trying to stand up GLCDC first.
 - 2. Chairman Dickens: Can you give us a timeframe for this issue?
 - 3. Councilor Hall-Harper: Can't give a timeline, there is a lack of communication from PartnerTulsa so she has been checking TDA agendas each week to see if the transfer of land is up for a vote.
- xi. Vice Chair Humphrey noted that doing research on this can be an action item for the Policy Committee, then they will come back to GTAAAC with a recommendation.
- xii. Vice Chair Humphrey made a motion to task the Policy Committee with researching this issue, Commissioner Dennis seconded.
 - 1. Chairman Dickens noted this needs to be the committee's number one priority.
 - 2. Commissioner Love wanted to know who is on the board.
 - 3. Commissioner Vaughn: Councilor Hall-Harper mentioned this vote could happen next month. GTAAAC only meets once a month, so how will GTAAAC ensure timely action?
 - a. Chairman Dickens: Policy Committee can recommend a special meeting of GTAAAC as long as we coordinate with the City.
 - 4. Aye: 13, Nay: 0
 - a. Commissioner Love Chandler was not yet present in the meeting.



5. Motion carried, the Policy Committee will research this issue.

III. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Circle of Influence Exercise
 - i. Chairman Dickens led GTAAAC in a Circle of Influence Exercise to map GTAAAC's collective influence and see the full reach of the commission.
 1. The visual will help guide networking, communication, and advocacy.
 2. Commissioners reported their circle of influence via a QR code.
 - ii. Debrief: Where does GTAAAC have the most connections? Where are the gaps? Who can we connect to each other?
 1. Chairman Dickens: It's important for commissioners to be connected so GTAAAC can effectively represent the African American community in Tulsa. When we work together, we have power.
 - iii. Networking Action Plan: Commissioners will identify key individuals or organizations to follow up with, opportunities to connect groups to each other, and gaps in influence to address.
 1. Chairman Dickens calls upon commissioners to reach out to folks in their circle of influence before the next commission meeting and bring information back to GTAAAC.
 2. Reminded commissioners to not commit GTAAAC to doing something or submit products on behalf of GTAAAC.
 - iv. Chairman Dickens reminds commissioners that their connectivity is their power, can leverage to help with priorities.
- b. Vice Chair Update: Title V Commission Retreat
 - i. Vice Chair Humphrey thanked commissioners who attended the Title V Commission Retreat and thanked Lexi and Dion'trae for organizing the retreat. It was a full room, and he presented on GTAAAC's committee structure. Also learned about different areas of the City of Tulsa.
 - ii. Lexi noted a connection between today's Circle of Influence exercise and the Retreat's Relational Meeting training.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action: Commission Meeting Time

- a. Chairman Dickens asked Lexi to share about the ask from TGOV staff to consider moving the commission meeting time to earlier in the evening to help them alleviate staffing constraints.
- b. Commission Discussion:
 - i. Commissioner Wilson asked if it can be changed in the new year. Lexi noted that it's up to the commission to decide if and when they change their meeting time.
 - ii. Commissioner Wallace suggested moving meetings to 5 pm.
 - iii. Commissioner Ray proposed that 5:30 would be a good middle ground, moving to 5 would be difficult for those coming after work.
 1. Commissioner Love Chandler also supports 5:30.
 - iv. Commissioner Carter-Breckner asked if 5:45 is an option.



- v. Commissioner Wilson has a conflict through the end of the year that precludes her from making an earlier meeting time work.
- vi. Vice Chair Humphrey noted that traffic is difficult when coming from further out in the city, moving the time up makes it even harder. Folks often struggle to get here on time for 6 pm.
- vii. Commissioners proposed having keeping the meeting start time at 6 pm and having a hard stop at 7 pm.
- c. Chairman Dickens proposed revisiting the discussion in the next meeting and taking a vote at that time. Commissioners agreed.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to approve the June meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Ray made a motion, Vice Chair Humphrey seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 14, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, June meeting minutes approved.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Policy Recommendations
 - i. Commissioner Ray reflected that the policy committee now has an emerging priority.
 - ii. Added a new member to the committee.
 - iii. Next Meeting: 8/27 at 9 am (virtually)
- b. Community Engagement and Culture Promotion
 - i. Commissioner McNeil shared three goals for the rest of the year into early 2026:
 - 1. Increase newsletter engagement.
 - 2. Increase community engagement and tabling.
 - a. Committee created a google account to build a listserv to share newsletter and events (login info will be shared with other committee chairs).
 - 3. Create a GTAAAC annual event.
 - ii. Special showing of Ragtime at Greenwood Cultural Center (Thursday at 7 pm), pay what you want donation.
 - iii. Next meeting: 8/22 at 11am (virtually)
- c. Education and Skill Building
 - i. Commissioner Stuckey spoke about the Educator awards. The committee has created a nomination form and a process to secure nominations. Will send to Lexi to share. Nominations will close the first week of September.
 - ii. Also working on an op-ed about chronic absenteeism.
 - iii. Next meeting: 9/8 at 5pm (virtually)
- d. Human Rights Commission
 - i. Commissioner McNeil shared in the June HRC meeting La Kendra Carter gave a human rights complaints update from January – June 2025. Most are housing and ADA complaints. When thinking of circle of influence or people who are struggling with those issues, get the word out about the complaints process.



ii. Two HRC goals are:

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. Increase diverse representation and equitable recruitment practices across all City of Tulsa authorities, boards, and commissions.

iii. Next meeting: 8/18 at 3:30 pm in City Hall, Room 10 North

VII. Old Business – no old business

VIII. New Business – no new business

IX. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Tulsa Area United Way Downtown Deco Challenge is August 23
- b. Welcoming Week Kickoff Event is September 12 from 5 – 8 pm
- c. Chairman Dickens encouraged public attendees to plug into a committee.

X. Adjournment

- a. Chairman Dickens made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Wilson seconded.
 - i. Aye: 14, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Tulsa, OK



Est. 1990

Tulsa City Council Office**WARNING: DEATH BY A MILLION CUTS – PARTNER TULSA IS SETTING THE STAGE TO
CONTINUE THE DESTRUCTION OF GREENWOOD/NORTH TULSA**

TO: The Citizens of District 1

June 12th, 2025

As the District 1 elected City Councilor, I am compelled to warn my community concerning Partner Tulsa and their actions related to the establishment of the Greenwood Legacy CDC/Kirkpatrick Heights Plan as well as the Evans FinTube Development conspiracy. After ideating several years ago and participating in these processes that were intended to transform the harmed community of Greenwood/North Tulsa, I am of the strong opinion that Partner Tulsa has not worked in the best interests of District 1 but rather is working to further the ongoing destruction of it. It has become clear that the Greenwood Legacy Community Development Corporation (GLCDC) will serve only as a false front and extension of local government that has historically and intentionally disenfranchised, destroyed and maintained the status quo of white supremacy over Black communities.

Over the last year and a half, Partner Tulsa has ignored the concerns I, your elected leader, have raised related to the creation of the GLCDC. Partner Tulsa has made and or directed decisions to be made on behalf of the community without a legitimate voice at the table. Partner Tulsa decided that elected officials cannot serve on the board and told me that there was a vote establishing this decision, yet I have been unable to find anyone confirming this vote. We were told prior to the establishment of the Advisory Committee that if you served on the Advisory Committee, you could not serve on the CDC Board. Clearly, that's not what happened as all 5 current board members served on the Advisory Committee. In addition, when the time came to select the board, the initial planning group volunteers were never reconvened, updated and presented with an opportunity to serve on the board. Rather, five members (a majority of 9) were selected behind closed doors to serve on the board without community input. Where is the transparency in that? Decisions are being made for us, without us in secrecy by Partner Tulsa and the board that they created is rubber stamping what Partner Tulsa is directing them to do.

**Tulsa City Council
175 East 2nd Street, 4th Floor
Tulsa, OK 74103**

Tulsa, OK



Est. 1990

Tulsa City Council Office

In addition, my community was totally bamboozled with the Evans FinTube Development that was led by Franchell Abdalla and selected by the community. Franchell's proposal and process was sabotaged to fail by Partner Tulsa from the very beginning. The entire process was a scam on the Black community to make it appear from a national perspective, that during the centennial commemoration of the Race Massacre that Tulsa was finally going to do right by our community. IT WAS ALL A LIE and things are right back to the normal status quo of white supremacy in Tulsa. The structure and process of the GLCDC will only ensure that development and opportunities to build wealth remain with the white male majority in Tulsa and we the Black community will be lucky to receive a few crumbs off the table. I have tried to have my concerns addressed throughout this process and I have been consistently disregarded and disrespected as your elected leader by Partner Tulsa. They have done and is continuing to do whatever the hell they want. Partner Tulsa and the GLCDC cannot be TRUSTED!

Therefore, as your elected City Councilor for District 1, I must SOUND THE ALARM and warn my community that the Greenwood Legacy CDC is a tool that is being created without your voice AND will bring further harm to our community!

POWER TO THE PEOPLE!!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vanessa Hall-Harper".

Vanessa Hall-Harper, MS
District 1 City Councilor

The opinions or policy positions expressed, either directly or indirectly, do not necessarily represent the view or position of the Tulsa City Council or the City of Tulsa.

Tulsa City Council
175 East 2nd Street, 4th Floor
Tulsa, OK 74103

To:
Mayor Monroe Nichols
Greenwood/Kirkpatrick Heights/North Tulsa
Tulsa Development Authority (TDA)
Tulsa Authority for Economic Opportunity (TAE0)

We, the undersigned leaders of the historic Greenwood District and North Tulsa community, stand in full support of our duly elected District 1 City Councilor, Vanessa Hall-Harper. Councilor Hall-Harper is sounding the alarm to her district concerning the deliberate actions of Partner Tulsa in the facilitation and creation of the Greenwood Legacy Community Development Corporation. Councilwoman Hall-Harper continues to win her elections by an ever-increasing landslide margin. She is unquestionably the voice of the North Tulsa community on local issues and initiatives. Yet, it is deeply disturbing to us that she has been disrespectfully disregarded by Partner Tulsa concerning the Greenwood Legacy CDC. Partner Tulsa's actions are not only disturbing but unethical and disingenuous. To exclude her presence and voice and select individuals who have NOT been elected by the people to sit on the board is quite frankly devious. We do not believe Partner Tulsa to be a trustworthy organization in our community. These divide and conquer tactics on the Black community must stop!

Therefore, we request that Partner Tulsa and the Greenwood Legacy CDC not be legitimized by the Tulsa Development Authority (TDA) and Tulsa Authority for Economic Opportunity (TAE0) by transferring the 56 acres of publicly owned land to the Greenwood Legacy CDC but rather these sacred lands be transferred to the Greenwood Trust established by the duly elected Mayor Monroe Nichols that was announced on June 1st in commemoration of the 1921 Race Massacre. We believe the Greenwood Trust will truly place the Greenwood District/North Tulsa on a "Road to Repair" and respect the officials elected by the PEOPLE!

Pastor Sam Holmes** Paradise Baptist Church 507 E. King Street Tulsa, OK 74106	Pastor Gerald Davis** Church of the Restoration 1314 N. Greenwood Ave. Tulsa, OK 74106
Pastor Keith Mayes** Historic Vernon AME Church 311 N. Greenwood Ave. Tulsa, OK 74120	Pastor Vernell L. Bell** Shiloh Baptist Church 1124 Martin Luther King Blvd. Tulsa, OK 74106
Pastor Leroy M. Cole** Mt. Zion Baptist Church 419 N. Elgin Ave. Tulsa, OK 74120	Pastor Kevin Williams** Mt. Rose Baptist Church 1137 Martin Luther King Blvd. Tulsa, OK 74106

Pastor Anthony Scott** First Baptist Church North Tulsa 1414 N. Greenwood Ave. Tulsa, OK 74106	Pastor Rodney Goss** Morning Star Baptist Church 1014 E. Pine St. Tulsa, OK 74106
Pastor Joshua Palmer** 1st Church of God In Christ 1251 N. Greenwood Ave. Tulsa, OK 74106	Pastor Anthony McMillon** Galilee Baptist Church 721 E. Pine St. Tulsa, OK 74106
Pastor Jamaal Dyer** Friendship Church 1709 N. Madison Ave. Tulsa, OK 74106	Pastor Sean A. Jarrett New Jerusalem Baptist Church 3427 N. Birmingham Ave. Tulsa, OK 74110
Pastor Layla Caldwell Agape Outreach Ministries 1029 N. Utica Ave. Tulsa, OK 74110	Representative Ron Stewart District 73 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd. Room 511 OKC, OK 73105
Pastor Larry Ingram Ambassador Christian Center 3024 N. Delaware Tulsa, OK 74110	Pastor Tim Newton Tulsa Dream Center 200 W. 46th Street North Tulsa, OK 74126
Pastor Chaz Glover Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church 2235 N. Norfolk Ave. Tulsa, OK 74106	

**Historic Greenwood District

Respectfully,

Vanessa Hall-Harper,
District 1 City Councilor



Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | September 9, 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, Jon Paul Ray, Jameelah Stuckey, Mikeal Vaughn, Maybelle Wallace, Juddie Williams, Tony Williams, Ray'Chel Wilson

Commissioners Absent: Marquess Dennis, David Harris, Tracye Love Chandler, Larissa McNeil, 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 August meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Love made a motion, Commissioner Wallace seconded.
 1. Commissioner Breeckner recommended an edit to Item IV.b: Add her comment suggesting 5:45 as a possible time.
 2. Aye: 10, Nay: 0
 - a. Commissioner Ray was not yet present in the meeting.
 - ii. Motion carried, August meeting minutes approved with one edit.

III. Guest Speaker: Cindy Webster, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma

- a. Cindy Webster is a Big Ambassador a Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma (BBBSOK).
- b. Cindy shared a history of the organization, which started in 1904.
- c. BBBSOK's Mission: Create and support one to one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.
- d. BBBSOK matches adults (18+) with youth (6 – 16) to help grow decision making skills and self-worth.
- e. The most important factor for a child to develop resilience is having a stable relationship with a supportive adult. When we nurture children, we strengthen our community.
- f. Three core programs:
 - i. School-based program at Kendall Whittier Elementary School: One-hour commitment per week directly on-site at school.
 - ii. Community Program: Big couple program, offer community activities a few times per month to introduce new experiences to littles.
 - iii. Big Team Mentoring: Provides extra support to littles, requires at least one hour per week for one year.
- g. Bigs are assigned to a Program Specialist who communicates and guides them through mentorship.
- h. BBBSOK is a proactive solution to supporting youth and Tulsa's future
- i. 431 children served in 2024. So far in 2025 have served 421 children.



- j. Recently concluded 30-year study. BBBSOK improved social competency and identity, learning to practice regulating emotions, avoiding risky behaviors
- k. Currently 125 littles waiting for mentors, 87 of which are boys.

IV. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairman Dickens highlighted the upcoming Black Educator Excellence Awards Ceremony and reminded commissioners they typically donate to provide a token of acknowledgement to awardees and to purchase food for the event.
- b. United Nigerian Association of Tulsa wants to contribute to GTAAAC and share Nigerian culture, invited them to join the Culture Committee.
- c. Chairman Dickens gave DJ Mercer the floor.
 - i. DJ is the Community Outreach & Engagement Manager at Justice for Greenwood.
 - ii. Hosting a three-part, monthly genealogy workshop starting on September 25, 6 – 7:30pm. The workshops will be offered in a hybrid format, with the in-person location at Rudisill Library. DJ invited commissioners to attend, share with their networks, and volunteer.
 - iii. Genealogy is important. You can't know where you're going if you don't know where you've been.
 - iv. Other two dates: October 23 and November 20.

V. Discussion and Possible Action: Commission Meeting Time

- a. Chairman Dickens continued the discussion on this item by referring to the August meeting minutes.
- b. Commissioner Wilson reiterated that she's open to a different time in the spring; otherwise, she won't be present for the start of the meeting if the meeting is moved up earlier than that.
- c. Chairman Dickens asked Lexi if moving to 5:45 would be a substantial change, she responded that she is unsure that it would be.
- d. Commissioner Love likes the current time.
- e. Commissioner Breeckner stated her preference to start later than 5:30 to avoid the rush hour traffic.
- f. Commissioner Love noted that when you have children there are more necessary considerations.
- g. The commission came to consensus to keep the meetings at 6pm. As the meeting time will not change, no formal action is necessary.
- h. Commissioner Wallace asked a question about ending at 7 vs 7:30, Chairman Dickens reinforced that meetings will end at 7pm except in rare occasions.

VI. Discussion and Possible Action: Response to Concerns about the Greenwood Legacy CDC Raised by Councilor Hall-Harper

- a. Commissioner Ray passed out copies of the Policy Committee's report (Appendix 1). Chairman Dickens and Commissioner Ray reminded the commission of the context for this discussion, included in August's meeting minutes.
- b. The Policy Committee interviewed individuals who would have knowledge of this issue to inform whether or not GTAAAC would sign onto Councilor's letter. Endeavored to gather as much information as possible in a short amount of time in order to bring back to GTAAAC. Commissioner Ray read the Policy Committee's report of findings to the commission.
- c. Commission Discussion:
 - i. Commissioner Vaughn asked if Chairman Dickens's letter is the same letter Councilor Hall-Harper has requested GTAAAC send to the Mayor. Chairman Dickens clarified that



Councilor Hall-Harper's letter is different than what he has written for the commission's consideration.

- ii. Vice Chair Humphrey talked about the Policy Committee's process. It is important to listen to and advocate for community. Councilor Hall-Harper has done a lot for Tulsa. There is a risk when community doesn't agree, and we have to wager risk of listening to everyone and supporting influential people. Don't want to bully or squash other voices in a process like this. The Policy Committee received pressure not to conduct research. GTAAAC must build bridges within the community; disagreement and difficulties can be worked out. Councilor Hall-Harper wants to protect our community, which is a shared goal. There are people in our community who voted on a process, and Vice Chair Humphrey thinks there has to be respect for the process and the decision of that body.
- d. Chairman Dickens reflected that only four current commissioners are founding members. Posted the question: What is the purpose of GTAAAC?
 - i. Referenced Article II of the bylaws, which states the purpose of the commission.
- e. When Councilor Hall-Harper presented to GTAAAC, Chairman Dickens's response was that GTAAAC needed time to make a decision for themselves.
 - i. Not acting solely based on his personal experience and interpretation, working on behalf of the entire commission.
- f. Chairman Dickens wrote a letter (Appendix 2) reflecting when he thinks the GTAAAC can do. As Chair of GTAAAC, he can't sign off on any individual's plan. Advocating for the CDC to work together with a trust.
 - i. We have an elected official who represents the voices of the community, and we can respect that role.
 - ii. Directed commissioners to look at the last three items in his letter.
 - iii. Elevating concerns to the Mayor is GTAAAC's responsibility, and GTAAAC will fall in line with the Mayor's decision.
 - iv. A trust provides an additional layer of protection; however, Chairman Dickens is not indicating currently anyone involved with the CDC is doing anything untrustworthy.
- g. Chairman Dickens proposed voting to send his letter to Mayor Nichols, TDA, and Councilor Hall-Harper.
- h. Commission Discussion:
 - i. Commissioner Ray asked clarifying question: Will GTAAAC vote tonight on sending Chairman Dickens's letter? Chairman Dickens answered yes.
 - ii. Commissioner Vaughn clarified that the proposed idea is to support a CDC and a trust, Chairman Dickens answered yes.
- i. Chairman Dickens shared the floor with Dr. Lana Turner-Addison. Dr. Turner-Addison shared that the Kirkpatrick Heights/Greenwood Master Plan (KHGMP) had a lot of community engagement, and subsequent decisions flow from that plan. The working group represents community voice. The working group established the selection committee, which selected the advisory board. Legally established the Greenwood Legacy CDC (GLCDC) in October 2024 for the purpose of acquiring and developing the 56 acres of land to benefit of Race Massacre descendants. Dr. Turner-Addison respects Councilor Hall-Harper and has always invited her and others to the table. Will continue work with GLCDC, interviewing for Executive Directors, going to do more direct community outreach and engagement. Dr. Turner-Addison invited GTAAAC to provide input or recommendations on filling the remaining board seats.



- i. Discussion ensued about the proposed relationship between the trust & GLCDC.
- j. Continued Commission Discussion:
 - i. Commissioner Love reflected that this is a long-time situation, she hopes the community can come together instead of being on opposing sides. It's not personal, it's about doing the best thing for the community.
 - ii. Chairman Dickens hopes the tone and messaging that will be heard is for groups to work together, not separately. Not looking to harm or support any particular person, focused on Greenwood's legacy as the ultimate concern. A trust provides an insurance to those who feel the historic hurt that the land is in a more protected position. Not saying a CDC couldn't provide this security, but CDCs do have more flexibility to change the land that wouldn't exist if the land is in a trust.
 - iii. Commissioner Vaughn: Hearing a lot of things, did a bit of research, and he appreciates the idea of both the CDC and trust. Doesn't understand the conflict of interest of an elected official serving on the CDC, see opacity in decision making, and feel that the elected official representing the area where the land exists should be part of the CDC regardless of personality conflicts.
 - 1. Chairman Dickens clarified that he is not addressing that specific point in his letter.
 - 2. Ongoing conversation is needed due to conflicting reports of if a formal discussion or decision took place to exclude elected officials from the GLCDC board.
 - iv. Commissioner Stuckey likes the letter.
 - v. Commissioner Wallace asked if the trust would ensure the land is under the jurisdiction of the City. Vice Chair Humphrey clarified that the trust is not fully set up yet so that's not determined yet.
 - vi. Commissioner Wilson Not comfortable voting yes on the letter yet because there is still room for assumption, but aware of timeliness. Asked what partnership would look like for the CDC.
 - 1. Chairman clarified the letter is not intended to dictate what the partnership will be; rather, supporting the idea of the CDC and trust working together.
 - vii. Commissioner Stuckey asked about a deadline, Chairman Dickens said there is urgency but ultimately not a set deadline.
 - viii. Commissioner Stuckey clarified the GTAAAC is not making final decision, simply sharing a recommendation.
 - ix. Commissioner Stuckey: Is it possible to vote next meeting? Could a group come to speak with us, to clear up conflicting information.
 - 1. Chairman Dickens is fine with tabling the vote if that's what the commission wants. Want commission to be comfortable.
- k. Commissioner Stuckey motioned to approve the letter, Commissioner Vaughn seconded.
 - i. Aye: 7 (Chairman Dickens and Commissioners Love, Ray, Stuckey, Vaughn, Juddie Williams, and Tony Williams)
 - ii. Nay: 4 (Commissioners Carter-Breeckner, Wallace, Wilson, and Vice Chair Humphrey)
 - iii. Abstain: 0
 - iv. Motion carried, letter is approved and will be sent to Mayor Nichols, TDA, and Councilor-Hall Harper.



- I. Chairman Dickens: There is still opportunity to continue discussion and invite folks to speak, community and commissioners should know what is going on.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Policy Recommendations – no further report
- b. Community Engagement and Culture Promotion
 - i. Commissioner Wallace: GTAAAC will table at the 918 Day Festival, invited commissioners to participate. Shifts are 5 – 7 and 7 – 9. Need someone to set up at 4:30 because Commissioner McNeil is not available. Email Commissioner McNeil if you can volunteer.
 - ii. Working on a shared calendar.
 - iii. Looking to debut the GTAAAC email in the October newsletter to further promote visibility of the commission.
 - iv. Commissioner Wallace passed out flyers for Othello with Theatre North.
- c. Education and Skill Building
 - i. Commissioner Stuckey: Received 10 nominations for the Educator Awards. Committee selected the Elementary & High School awardees. Middle School ELA teacher nominations are still needed, so nominations are reopened for two weeks. Following up with DRE team and other organizations on budget and donations.
 - ii. Op-ed on chronic absenteeism will be done soon.
- d. Human Rights Commission
 - i. Dickens shared emailed report from Commissioner McNeil.
 - ii. HRC is working to understand and/or support various ordinances for the city.
 1. One commissioner brought up the boulders on the sidewalk outside of the bus station downtown, since it seems it will disproportionately affect unhoused populations.
 2. HRC also wrote a letter to City Councilors supporting the expansion of the human right ordinance that would add protections to veterans in housing and public accommodations and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in public accommodations. The ordinance was up for discussion at the City Council Urban and Economic Development committee meeting. Unfortunately, the ordinance will not move forward at this time because of the lack of votes to pass the ordinance. The HRC will regroup to determine how to advance these human rights.

VIII. Old Business – no old business

IX. New Business – no new business

X. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Tulsa Tech Week: Sept 21, Tulsa's first tech week
 - i. Two financial resilience events: Code Switching Your Wallet (9/24) and Financial Wellbeing as Innovation (9/25)
- b. 918 Day Festival at Chapman Green: 5 – 9 pm on 9/18

XI. Adjournment

- a. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Commissioner Love made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Wilson seconded.
 1. Aye: 11, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Policy Committee Report – September 9, 2025

Assignment: Conduct information-gathering research to allow GTAAAC to vote on whether to support Councilor Vanessa Hall-Harper’s letter addressing her concerns regarding PartnerTulsa.

History: On August 12, 2025, City Councilor Vanessa Hall-Harper spoke to GTAAAC to advise of her concerns with Partner Tulsa, TDA/TAEO, and the Kirkpatrick Heights / Greenwood Master Plan. In the August 12th meeting and the letters that she provided, Councilor Vanessa Hall-Harper noted concerning issues relating to the lack of transparency, the exclusion of elected officials to serve on the CDC Board, and conflicting communications on whether advisory committee members could serve on the CDC Board. Accordingly, City Councilor Hall-Harper has sounded the alarm, and she is requesting GTAAAC’s support of her letter to Mayor Nichols requesting that Partner Tulsa and the Greenwood Legacy CDC not be legitimized by the Tulsa Development Authority (TDA) and Tulsa Authority for Economic Opportunity (TAEO).

Methodology: The policy committee called, interviewed, and emailed several individuals with knowledge of the issues presented above. The policy committee also analyzed websites and information available to the public. The findings are presented below.

Findings:

- A Community Governance Working Group (including Councilor Vanessa Hall-Harper) performed 16-18 months of research regarding national governance models and local community input.
- This 35-person Working Group then voted on a CDC vs. a trust.
 - An attorney was consulted to advise on the differences between a CDC and a trust
 - The Working Group voted in favor of the CDC.
 - A few members of the Working Group disagreed with the CDC decision, but the majority voted for the CDC.
- A nine-person Advisory Committee was established to select the founding members of the CDC.
 - *Note* some reports indicate that the Advisory Committee then created a “Selection Committee” to select the founding members of the CDC.
- The application for the Advisory Committee was open to the public and the Working Group was encouraged to apply (41 applications were received).
 - *Note* reports indicate confusion whether the Working Group members could apply for the Advisory Board. Some indicate their belief that the Advisory Board would then provide an opportunity to be selected for the founding board. Other reports indicate that only members of the *Selection Committee* could not serve on the Founding Board of the CDC.
- The “Selection Committee” or Advisory Board selected 5/9 CDC founding members
 - There was a discussion on specifically not selecting elected officials since they could potentially have a conflict of interest. But there are mixed reports on whether an actual vote occurred to specifically exclude elected officials.
 - The CDC’s current five Founding Board members are all from the 9-person Advisory Committee.

From the Chair, Greater Tulsa African American Affairs Commission, Dr. Dewayne Dickens

Date: September 9, 2025

To:

Mayor Monroe Nichols, City of Tulsa
 Councilor Vanessa Hall Harper, District 1
 Chair Ashley Philippsen, Tulsa Development Authority

Subject: Greenwood Land and the Need for Trust and Transparency

Dear Mayor Nichols, Councilor Hall Harper, and Chair Philippsen:

On behalf of the Greater Tulsa African American Affairs Commission (GTAAAC), I write regarding the future of Greenwood land currently held by the Tulsa Development Authority. The future of Greenwood is both personal and historically significant. Decisions about this land deserve a process that is transparent, respectful, and committed to the community's long-term well-being.

Representation and Community Voice

Since we operate under representative democracy, and we believe that every voice deserves to be heard at the table—through town halls, City Hall meetings, and direct communication with elected officials, Councilor Harper's stated request requires thoughtful consideration.

Our bylaws demand that we give special attention to advising and advocating for the use of city resources on behalf of the African American community:

With the goal of creating a strong, prosperous, self-sustaining African American community, the Commission will advise and advocate for the use of city resources for the development of matters of importance to the African-American community.

In line with this charge, we recognize Councilor Hall Harper as a tireless advocate for District 1. While her passion has sometimes drawn more attention to tone than substance, the larger concern—the future of Greenwood—must take precedence, as Councilor Hall Harper has rightly indicated.

Education, Transparency, and Respectful Dialogue

While there have been moments where process and tone created tension, the larger concern—the future of Greenwood—must take precedence. On this, we are aligned. We must foster dialogue that allows for differences without fear of dismissal or ridicule. Respectful engagement is the only path to rebuilding public trust.

Although public meetings have been held, the broader community still lacks a clear understanding of the process and outcomes. Moving forward, we encourage clearer communication that allows all citizens to follow the process and trust the outcomes, ensuring understanding for the members of the public.

Why a Trust Is Necessary

The Greenwood land symbolizes more than property—it represents shattered dreams and stolen wealth. Placing this land in a **trust** is not about who proposed the idea; it is about protecting the community’s legacy and preventing the possibility of quick loss, as history painfully taught us in 1921. A trust provides an additional layer of protection that a CDC alone cannot offer.

While CDCs are well-equipped to develop partnerships, finance projects, and build community facilities, the trust ensures that the land itself remains safeguarded for future generations. The two can work hand-in-hand: the trust protecting the land, and the CDC building upon it. Together, they can heal mistrust and foster confidence that Greenwood will not again be stripped away.

This is not about personalities or past disagreements; it is about ensuring Greenwood’s future is never again left vulnerable. For a community scarred by the destruction of 1921, a trust is not simply a legal structure; it is a safeguard of dignity and assurance for generations.

Our Request

The GTAAAC respectfully requests:

1. That the City of Tulsa and the Tulsa Development Authority place the Greenwood land currently under TDA control into the Mayor’s proposed trust structure, ensuring permanent protection of the land.
2. That the identified CDC serve as the development and financial partner, leveraging its expertise to implement community projects.
3. That all parties—TDA, the City, the CDC, and Councilor Hall Harper—commit to open, respectful dialogue and public transparency in each step of this process.

We believe this approach honors history, acknowledges ongoing pain, and sets a precedent for a legacy of reparation. It places the emphasis not on individuals or tactics, but on outcomes that ensure justice for Greenwood. We believe representative democracy requires that citizens be fully informed, fully engaged, and fully respected—especially when decisions carry the weight of shaping Greenwood’s legacy for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Dr. Dewayne Dickens



Chair, Greater Tulsa African American Affairs Commission



Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | October 14, 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, Jon Paul Ray, Jameelah Stuckey, Maybelle Wallace, Juddie Williams, Tony Williams

Commissioners Absent: Larissa McNeil, Mikeal Vaughn, Kristi Williams, Ray'Chel Wilson

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairman Dickens called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to approve the September meeting minutes.
 - i. Vice Chair Humphrey made a motion, Commissioner Ray seconded.
 1. Aye: 9, Nay: 0
 - a. Commissioners Dennis and Stuckey were not yet present in the meeting.
 - ii. Motion carried, September meeting minutes approved.

III. Timeline for Nominating Committee

- a. Commissioner Dennis arrived at 6:05 pm.
- b. Chairman Dickens notes the half pager included in meeting packets (Appendix 1), which outlines the timeline for the Nominating Committee to lead the selection of the next Chair and Vice Chair.

IV. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairman Dickens posed two questions to commissioners:
 - i. In the committee you serve on within the Commission, how are you using your unique expertise, lived experience, or professional background to strengthen the committee's work and impact?
 - ii. In what ways are you ensuring that community voices, perspectives, and concerns are being represented and heard within your committee's discussions and recommendations?
- b. Commissioner Stuckey arrived at 6:10 pm.
- c. Commission Discussion:
 - i. Commissioner Dennis reflected on how helpful it is to know other commissioners' areas of expertise.
 - ii. Chairman Dickens encouraged commissioners to talk about where their expertise lies and several commissioners shared.



- iii. Commissioner Stuckey noted that GTAAAC's newsletter is one way the Community Engagement and Culture Promotion Committee brings in and informs the community.
- iv. Several commissioners recognized how knowledgeable fellow commissioners are in various areas.
- v. Chairman Dickens encourages commissioners to actively seek out community partnerships and collaboration to make GTAAAC's work more impactful.

V. Discussion: GTAAAC Organization Seats

- a. Chairman Dickens noted that several organizations that have a seat on GTAAAC currently don't have a representative. Can recommend changing some organization seats to individual seats; however, it requires an ordinance change, which goes through City Council. May also consider changing what organizations have a seat on GTAAAC. Chairs can make recommendations to Mayor Nichols, who then decides if he will appoint that organization or not. Chairman Dickens wants commissioners to know work is being done to address vacant seats.
 - i. Commissioner Ray requested a list of organizations that have a seat on GTAAAC, Dion'trae said a list will be sent.
 - ii. Commissioner Dennis asked about creating a list of prospective organizations that may be qualified to be considered for a seat. Chairman Dickens clarified that he will send a pool of potential organizations and Mayor Nichols decides which ones will be appointed.
- b. Chairman Dickens underscored the importance of having diversity of active, engaged commissioners who bring their unique perspectives and community voice to GTAAAC.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Policy Recommendations
 - i. Commissioner Dennis reported the committee discussed an action plan to be well positioned to respond to future community issues and bridge information gaps. Want to host community engagement forum.
- b. Community Engagement and Culture Promotion
 - i. Commissioner Wallace shared that the committee has created a GTAAAC email list, which will share the monthly newsletter, events, and important announcements.
 - ii. Next meeting is Friday, October 17 at 11am at Rudisill Library. Will discuss ways to pivot from the spoken word contest and brainstorm additional spaces to disseminate the newsletter.
 - iii. Opportunities for commissioner input (send to Commissioner McNeil):
 - 1. Locations to distribute the newsletter
 - 2. November events to add to the next newsletter
- c. Education and Skill Building
 - i. Commissioner Stuckey reminded commissioners that the Black Educator Excellence Awards Ceremony is this month.



1. Secured a donation from QuikTrip, with additional asks pending.
2. Event has been shared in a variety of ways.
- ii. Committee is also working on op-ed about chronic absenteeism.
- iii. Commissioner Stuckey met with Emilee Taylor at Tulsa Public Schools (TPS), who is leading community engagement for TPS's next strategic plan. Working to have her speak at a future commission meeting.
- d. Human Rights Commission
 - i. Chairman Dickens shared that Commissioner Wallace will be honored as one of two 2025 Humanitarians of the Year on Thursday, December 11 at 6 pm in the City Council Chambers.

VII. Old Business – no old business

VIII. New Business – no new business

IX. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Birthright Living Legacy Fatherhood Summit: November 8 at NSU
- b. Alpha Kappa Alpha Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk: October 18 at Lacey Park
- c. This is the final week Fulton Street Books and Coffee, a Black woman owned bookstore, will be open. They have a lineup of events this week.
- d. Old School Games on Greenwood: October 18 from 8 am – 7 pm along Greenwood Ave
- e. Public Comments:
 - i. Park Pop Out: October 25 from 4 – 6 pm at John Starks Park
 - ii. New Executive Director at Downtown YMCA introduced herself and welcomed folks to visit for a tour.

X. Adjournment

- a. Chairman Dickens entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Commissioner Ray made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Love Chandler seconded.
 - ii. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.



Appendix 1

Tentative Timeline for Nominating Committee for Presenting Officer Slate for Upcoming Year:

Tuesday of November Commission Meeting	Selection of Nominating Committee
December 1	Email to Commissioners
December 20	Final Date for Submitting Recommendations for Chair and Vice Chair
January 5	Nominating Committee Finalize Slate (by confirming willingness of referred individuals)
Monday of Week of 2 nd Tuesday session	Print copies for ballot for the number of commissioners who could be at the meeting
Tuesday Commission Session	Present slate of officers for Chair and Vice Chair positions



Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission

Special Meeting | October 28, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | City Council Chambers

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Patricia Carter-Breeckner, Marquess Dennis, Dewayne Dickens, Brian Humphrey, Margaret Love, Tracye Love Chandler, Jon Paul Ray, Jameelah Stuckey, Mikeal Vaughn, Juddie Williams

Commissioners Absent: Larissa McNeil, Maybelle Wallace, Kristi Williams, Tony Williams, Ray'Chel Wilson

I. Call to Order

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

II. Black Educator Excellence Awards Ceremony

- a. Mayor Nichols delivered remarks.
- b. Dr. La Verne Ford Wimberly delivered remarks.
- c. The commission gave awards to three educators: Shyann Cooks, Kirsten Hicklin, and Haley Newby.

III. Adjournment

- a. Chairman Dickens adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.



Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | November 12, 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, Tracye Love Chandler, Mikeal Vaughn, Ray'Chel Wilson

Commissioners Absent: Marquess Dennis, Larissa McNeil, Jon Paul Ray, Jameelah Stuckey, Maybelle Wallace, Juddie Williams, Kristi Williams, Tony Williams

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairman Dickens called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. As a quorum was not present, October meeting minutes were not approved.

III. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. GTAAAC Organization Seats (4 available for swapping or organization assignment)
 - i. In process for filling (representatives identified and completing process): (1) Black Wall Street Chamber and (2) Greenwood Cultural Center
 - ii. Need a representative or recommend swapping with a different organization: (1) Be Well CDC/Health Department, (2) Business Agents Networking Group, (3) Institute for Developing Communities, (4) Tulsa Economic Development Corporation
 - iii. Chairman Dickens notes that the Commission makes recommendations to the Mayor's office, does not ultimately decide who is on the commission. Can make recommendations of different organizations to have a seat on GTAAAAC. Goal is to represent as many people across Tulsa as possible.
- b. GTAAAC At-Large Seats: 2 available
- c. Chairman Dickens will send a list of recommendations for organization and individual seats as one of his last tasks as chair. Encouraged commissioners to submit names to him by Thanksgiving.

IV. Nominating Committee: Appoint Chair and Elect Two Other Members

- a. Chairman Dickens asked if any commissioners present are interest in serving on the Nominating Committee. Commissioners Wilson, Love, and Love Chandler expressed interest.
- b. As a quorum was not present, the Nominating Committee was not elected.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Policy Recommendations



- i. Commissioner Vaughn shared the committee met in the last month and discussed the structure of the committee that will aid in retaining committee knowledge. Chairman Dickens noted that the method of selecting co-chair and chair for the committee would have to comply with the commission's bylaws.
 - b. Community Engagement and Culture Promotion
 - i. November newsletter was published.
 - c. Education and Skill Building
 - i. Commissioner Love reported the committee was very pleased with the Back Educator Excellence Awards Ceremony.
 - d. Human Rights Commission
 - i. Chairman Dickens reminded commissioners that Commissioner Wallace will be honored as a Humanitarian of the Year on Thursday, December 11 at 6 pm in the City Council Chambers.
- VI. Old Business** – no old business
- VII. New Business** – no new business
- VIII. Announcements / Public Comments**
- a. A member of the public shared encouragement for the commission.
- IX. Adjournment**
- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.



Appendix 1

Tentative Timeline for Nominating Committee for Presenting Officer Slate for Upcoming Year:

Tuesday of November Commission Meeting	Selection of Nominating Committee
December 1	Email to Commissioners
December 20	Final Date for Submitting Recommendations for Chair and Vice Chair
January 5	Nominating Committee Finalize Slate (by confirming willingness of referred individuals)
Monday of Week of 2 nd Tuesday session	Print copies for ballot for the number of commissioners who could be at the meeting
Tuesday Commission Session	Present slate of officers for Chair and Vice Chair positions