Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | September 8, 2026 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | Room 10 North

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Patricia Carter-Breeckner, Marquess Dennis, Dewayne Dickens, Symone Gittens, Brian Humphrey, Tracye Love Chandler, Jon Paul Ray, Jameelah Stuckey, Mikeal Vaughn, Maybelle Wallace, Juddie Williams, Tony Willialms, Ray'Chel Wilson

Commissioners Absent: Michelle Burdex, Margaret Love, Fifi Martin, Larissa McNeil, Kristi Williams

I. **Call to Order**
   a. Chairman Humphrey called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. A quorum was not yet present.

II. **Guest Speaker: Willie Barney, Tulsa Empowerment Network**
   a. Willie Barney with the Tulsa Empowerment Network (TEN) presented virtually.
   b. Empowerment Network started in Omaha 2006 with conversations about community strengths and assets. First focus was reducing homicides in the African American community in north Omaha.
      i. Youth employment program – robotics, entrepreneurship, and culinary.
      ii. 800+ homes on the demolition list in north Omaha.
   c. Commissioner Vaughn arrived at 6:08 pm. The commission was now at quorum.
   d. Nebraska state proposal secured $500 million for business hubs and large business to move to north Omaha.
   e. 95% increase in the number of Black-owned businesses with employees in Omaha.
   f. Began working in Tulsa in January 2024.
      i. Hosted 18 events.
      ii. Black-led community collaborative modeled on work in Omaha.
   g. Commissioner Juddie Williams arrived at 6:12 pm.
   h. State of Black Tulsa – 300+ attended
      i. Biggest challenges – lack of cooperation/collective vision, resource inequities, homeownership/gentrification, and economic opportunities.
      ii. Desire for a common vision – Work together to create a thriving, prosperous, self-sufficient community.
   i. Commissioner Gittens arrived at 6:14 pm.
   j. Phase 1 priorities (2025 – 2027): economic development and entrepreneurship; employment and wages; financial empowerment, housing, and revitalization; education and youth development; health; safety and justice; and arts, culture, history, and media

k. TEN hosts monthly meetings.
l. Commissioner Stuckey arrived at 6:17 pm.
m. Commission Discussion
    i. Vice Chair Wilson asked if TEN works with McLain High School to collaborate on their growing internship program. Willie answered yes.
    ii. Commissioner Love Chandler asked how people get connected to TEN. Willie noted that TEN's monthly event is the third Saturday of each month at the 36th Street North Event Center. Registration is encouraged to have an accurate food count. He is also open to partnering with GTAAAC to help get the word out.
    iii. Chairman Humphrey: Will future meetings focus on different topics? Willie: Housing and homeownership have been the primary focus thus far, as selected by the community. Future meetings will have different themes.
    iv. Brentom shared that the next State of Black Tulsa will be in February 2027.
n. Commissioner Wallace exited the meeting at 6:25 pm.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. Chairman Humphrey entertained a motion to approve August meeting minutes.
    i. Commissioner Gittens motioned, Commissioner Carter-Breeckner seconded.
        1. Aye: 12, Nay: 0
            a. Commissioner Wallace was not present in the meeting.
    ii. Motion carried, August meeting minutes approved.

IV. Executive Committee Report

a. Chairman Humphrey reported that the Executive Committee hasn't formally met but continues to work on the strategic focus and community survey. Appreciate those who have provided feedback. Considering working with other organizations that can assist with data collection.
b. Still working on filling vacant seats, currently at 18 commissioners.
c. Commissioner Wallace returned to the meeting at 6:28 pm.

V. Committee Reports

a. Strategic Focus – covered in Executive Committee Report
b. Policy Recommendations
    i. Commissioner Ray reported that the Policy Committee reviewed local election results in their most recent meeting and discovered there is not a lot of information about the full timeline of elections, what triggers a runoff, etc which could contribute to low voter turnout. Working to create a graphic that shows the timeline and why each milestone is important.
c. Community Engagement and Culture Promotion
    i. Commissioner Wallace noted the September newsletter was released.
    ii. Next meeting: September 9 at 11:30
d. Education and Skill Building

i. Commissioner Vaughn commended the amazing work being led by Commissioner Love Chandler.
ii. Commissioner Love Chandler reported that nominations are live for the Black Educator Awards. Dr. Wimberly herself is sharing it and Commissioner Love Chandler submitted a request for TPS to share. Dr. Johnson has unofficially confirmed her attendance, and elected officials and community leaders were also invited.
    1. Catering is donated.
    2. Met with Dr. Wimberly to get her input on the awards.
iii. Commissioner Dennis exited the meeting at 6:34 pm.
iv. Commissioner Love Chandler reviewed the award categories.
v. Commissioner Dennis returned to the meeting at 6:36 pm.

VI. Human Rights Commission Liaison Report

a. Lexi provided a Human Rights Commission (HRC) update in Commissioner McNeil's absence. She shared that one of HRC's goals focused on accessibility updates to the City's human rights complaints process is making great progress and an online complaints option is in the works.

VII. Old Business – no old business

VIII. New Business – no new business

IX. Announcements / Public Comments

a. 918 Day Festival on September 18, 5 – 9 pm at Chapman Green and afterparty at Indigo Hotel.
b. St Monica Church is celebrating 100 years
c. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Health Fair: September 19
d. Tulsa Tech Week: week of September 20
e. Black Wall Street Nation Festival: Sept 25 – 27
f. Public Comments
    i. Community member noted the lack of an early voting site in north Tulsa, invited GTAAAC to discuss this. Commissioner Ray is happy to discuss this issue at the next Policy Committee meeting.
    ii. Jerica: Parla Creative Festival September 24 - 27 champions BIPOC creatives. Volunteer opportunities available: jagtulsa.org
    iii. Brentom: Northside Neighbors conference tomorrow at Langston.
        1. Councilor Dutton: Scholarships available for the conference.

X. Adjournment

a. Chairman Humphrey entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
    i. Commissioner Dennis made a motion, Commissioner Tony Williams seconded.
        1. Aye: 13, Nay: 0
    ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.