



Thursday, February 3, 2022 – 1:30 p.m.
Bolton Avenue Community Center
Face Masks are mandatory

Minutes

Members Present:

Booker T. Booze
June Johnson Davis
Jewel Johnson
Tommy Milo
Amarjit Pillarisetti
Michael D. Wynne

Guests Present:

Mayor Jeffrey Hall
Shane Williams
Jim Smilie
Breyahna Williams

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Amy Pillarisetti, Chairperson. Member Johnson conducted meditation. The minutes of the November 4, 2021 meeting were approved.

Chairperson Pillarisetti introduced the Mayor's Chief of Staff Broussard who spoke at length on the city's plans for a new Civil Rights Park to be located catty corner to the Arna Bontemps home on the 13th block of Third Street. She (and the Mayor) now asked that the members of our Commission come to the City Council subcommittee meeting next Tuesday, February 8th, at 3:30 p.m. to support the approval for the purchase of the land. The money for the purchase is already in the city's budget. This park will be placed in an area where the city hopes to create a Civil Rights and/or Black History trail.

Mayor Hall indicated this project began many years ago by another mayoral administration. Lots of planning has occurred over the years and the new location is very appropriate. Member Wynne expressed his full agreement at this location where visitors can access many different resources by foot rather than by car. Commissioner Jewel Johnson recommended a pictorial representation of the park be shown to the members of the city council at the February 8th meeting.



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Chairperson Pillarisetti gave an overview of the planned breakfast. There was much discussion on the breakfast, program, caterer, flower arranger, etc. As for as speakers, that will be decided on at a special meeting to be held 2 weeks from today, on February 17th, by the Commission. At that time, the Commission will also decide upon the honorees. The closing for nominations for awards is on February 7th. Mr. Williams said he will send a letter soon to Peabody High School as requested by them for their participation in the breakfast.

Member Johnson handed out information regarding "The Folding Chair", a diversity dinner and dialogue experience to be held on February 24th. Several items were mentioned for the agenda at the March meeting of the Commission.

It was suggestion that we formally change from meeting every other month to now every month. That motion was approved by the Commission.

Meeting adjourned. Next official commission meeting is February 17, 2022.

Michael D. Wynne
Secretary



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