

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN  
AFFAIRS  
JULY 20, 09:00 A.M.**

1. Meeting called to order by Dell Gines at 09:19 a.m.
2. Invocation by Femi
3. Roll Call at 09:21
  - a. Glenn Freeman (Not Present)
  - b. Clarice Jackson (Not Present)
  - c. DeMoine Adams (Not Present)
  - d. Mark Smith (Not Present)
4. Motion for approval of minutes from April 20, 2022, was made by Dell Gines. Vernon Joseph seconded the motion which, unanimously carried by members present.

**COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS –**

5. FINANCE - Connie Edmond reported that Christopher is acclimating to the system. The balance sheet was distributed to the Commission Member and explained. The Fiscal year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> each year and balances carry over with the new allocation from previous years. Monies that are distributed with deadlines for use need to be carefully monitored to ensure that allocated funds are properly used so there is no return of any distributed funds for commission or community use to the state.
6. Connie reported DAS has not done any disbursements until all paperwork from the commissioners has been turned in. Christopher reported DAS advised disbursements will be made on or after July 27, 2022 if all request for reimbursements and paperwork has been processed by July 20, 2022.
7. Dell recommended a mechanism should be put in place to automatically send to commission members to report their attendance and request for out-of-pocket reimbursements.

### **BYLAWS COMMITTEE -**

8. John reported input is being sought from all commission members regarding the Bylaws by August 31, 2022. Policies and procedures will also be developed to address issues of conduct and mandates. A code of conduct will also be drafted and implemented for removal or addressing problems or issues. The Bylaws will be presented to the general body for ratification at the October meeting after all Commissioners have had the opportunity to review and recommend changes or additions to the proposed Bylaws.

### **STRADEGY COMMITTEE -**

9. Dell recommended a process need to be developed to address internal concerns that may arise. Femi expressed his desire to work with the Strategy Committee. Dell stated he would email a list of standing committee members to validate what members are serving on the various committees.
10. Dell announced Pastor Mark submitted his resignation from the Commission. Dell recommended getting a card to be signed by each member thanking Pastor Mark for his service on the commission. It was further suggested the commission adopt a standard procedure for expressing appreciate for the service of any member of the commission who decides to leave whether by resignation or expiration of service commitment.
11. Dell recommended a policy needs to be established to replace departing commission member with other that have been recommended by the community. It was agreed the person being replaced did not have to be replaced by a successor from the same geographical area. The community recommends the replacements which are ratified by the Strategy Committee that sends a list of final selectees to the governor for consideration.
12. Dell asked for members to consider ways to engage senators to consider the Commission for appropriation of funding. Vernon suggested the Commission hold a community event and invite the candidates who are running for state senate and for governor to attend. That would be a good method to introduce the Executive Director and make contact will all of the candidates seeking to join the legislature as well as the newly coming governor without excluding anyone.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT -**

13. Christopher stated by the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting he plans on having an executive assistant hired to take over doing the minutes and helping to handle the day-to-day administrative duties. However, that goal may or may not be met.
14. Christopher stated he reached out to the National Bar Association to recruit workers or temporary staff to the office. There is still no landline hooked up in the office space we are currently leasing, and it is recommended that a person be hired to do collective research. The Commission recommended that focus should be concentrated on hiring a good administrative assistant to help in the office as a more urgently needed priority.
15. Gwen suggested that Christopher contact Owens Resource Agency as a resource to consider finding suitable office help if using such a community resource for personnel is permissible by the state.
16. Christopher stated he is in the process of having internet installed in the office so that a website can be put together for the organization as well as a Facebook page. He projected the completion of that goal to be by October 2022.
17. The Commission was being charged for monthly parking instead of during the meeting times and days only. Christopher reported he is working with Roxanne from DAS in correcting that issue and getting the overpayments credited back to the Commission.
18. The State DAS Office is awaiting invoices to delete taxes and late fees that were charged to the Commission from Regis. The amounts due for May, June and July is \$1356.00 without taxes and late fees. Regis acknowledge liability for the deficiency in payments for not sending the adjusted invoices to the State DAS Office.
19. Christopher stated that his plan to meet with each commissioner is slow but in process, but he will eventually get to everyone.
20. Dell expressed that he thinks Christopher's efforts to meet with various persons to gather information is admirable, but more concentration should be

placed on the bucket items that were outlined and decided on by the Commission.

### **OLD BUSINESS -**

21. Dell recommended that the Commission consider profiling Christopher in the Omaha Star as the Newly installed Director and a group of commissioners should get together to plan the event. Femi recommended that a V.I.P. reception be scheduled prior to a larger community meeting to introduce Christopher. A social engagement commission is being formed to work out the details and planning of the event. Meeting dates for that committee will be planned for early September.
22. Dell suggested the commissioners should have a “go around the room” session at each quarterly meeting to hear what commissioners may be hearing from the community at large concerning needs being expressed in the community.
23. Femi further suggested that the commissioners also needed to get to know one another better as commission members beyond just meeting for two hours each quarter.

### **NEW BUSINESS -**

24. Dell recommended the next scheduled meeting will be from 09:00 – Noon to allow more time for discussion and or public input. If there are no items on the agenda to cover the entire time the Commission can adjourn early.
25. Gwen asked for more clarity and information on the disbursement of ARPA Funds and wants inquiries made to the legislature as to what funds can be made available directly to the Commission. The Commission should be more proactive and included in conversations on where those funds are allocated and spent.
26. Dell recommended that Christopher find out what the application process is to apply for the ARPA Funds or whatever other funding may be available

directly to the Commission. Tony Goins should be contacted and placed on the schedule to address the Commission on what funds and opportunities are available. Connie suggested before asking those questions regarding funding that research should be done to read over and understand the North Omaha Recovery Plan to ensure the Commission is not seeking information that has already been published and answered.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

No Public comments. Writer from Omaha World Herald present as public guest.

27.Motion to adjourn was made by Dell at 10:59 a.m., and seconded by Femi

Respectfully submitted by:  
John Carter