



## January 29, 2025 | General Meeting Minutes

**Time:** 10:00 am – 1:00 PM

**Location:** Metropolitan Community College, 5730 N 30th St Bldg. 21, Omaha, NE 68111

**Present:** Tim Clark | Chair  
Trevon Brooks  
Terri Crawford  
Gwen Easter  
Dorothy Johnson  
Ted Lampkin  
Joanna LeFlore-Ejike  
Johnny Nesbit  
Laban Njuguna

**Absent:** Quentin Brown  
Connie Edmond  
Glenn Freeman  
Clarice Jackson

### Agenda Items

1. Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Chair Report
4. Executive Session
5. Commission Elections

### Key Discussion Points

#### 1. Roll Call

#### 2. Public Comment

Chairman Tim Clark opened the floor for public comments.

Speaker 1: Cheryl Weston raised concerns about the commission, particularly regarding the appointments made within it. She inquired about the actions taken since its inception and questioned how the funds have been utilized. Additionally, she expressed frustration with the timing of commission meetings, noting that the current schedule makes it difficult for working individuals to attend. She urged the Commission to improve its organization and effectiveness.

Speaker 2: Anthony Rodgers expressed a strong interest in learning more about the Commission's activities at both the local and federal levels, particularly in areas related to housing and education. He noted that several bills addressing green initiatives were being introduced this session and urged that environmental issues be prioritized. Additionally, he raised concerns about gentrification in the North Omaha area, highlighting it as a significant issue for the community.

Speaker 3: Sherman Wells discussed his work within the community and expressed concerns about the Commission. He highlighted that North Omaha ranks first in the U.S. for incarcerating Black males and pointed out that the region has one of the most expensive prison systems in the country. He also mentioned that many people in the community are unaware of the Commission's role and emphasized his hope that the new administration will bring about meaningful change.

Chairman Clark expressed his gratitude to the public for their valuable feedback and invited each Commissioner to introduce themselves, sharing their motivations for serving on the Commission. Following the introductions, Chairman Clark reassured the public of the Commission's commitment to transparency, emphasizing that it will remain open and forthcoming in its efforts. He also provided an update on the Commission's ongoing work, noting that NCAAA is in the process of hiring a company to conduct an environmental scan on issues affecting African Americans and to develop its strategic plan.

Commissioner Dorothy Johnson emphasized to the public the importance of collaboration and cooperation. She encouraged the public to reach out to commissioners and encouraged Sherman Wells to consider joining the Commission to support its mission.

Commissioner Crawford shared that she attended a meeting with Senator Spivey, who has requested regular meetings with the Commission. She also highlighted several bills the Commission is focusing on during this legislative session, including LB487, the Restitution and Redress for Redlining Task Force Act. This bill establishes a task force to study the historical and ongoing effects of redlining in Nebraska, with a particular emphasis on its impact on African American communities. Commissioner Crawford expressed her desire for strong community support for this legislation and encouraged the public to attend legislative hearings. She also emphasized that the Commission is closely monitoring and fully supports the bill. Additionally, she mentioned LB556, a critical bill that lowers the age at which juveniles can be charged to 11. She noted that this bill is especially significant due to the disparity impact on Black and Brown youth, and the Commission is closely tracking its progress.

### **3. Chair Report**

**a). Legislative Update:** Chairman Clark reported that he and the Legislative Committee met with Senator Spivey on Friday, January 24, to discuss her priorities, particularly LB69. He explained that LB69 aims to increase accountability by proposing changes to meeting requirements and introducing a mandate for the Commission to issue an annual report.

Additionally, Chairman Clark shared that the Commission has integrated advocacy software on its website, allowing constituents to view the legislative issues the Commission is involved in, along with the Commission's stance on each bill.

He also noted that the Commission will be meeting regularly with the state delegation to strengthen its advocacy efforts.

**b). Bylaws Update:** Chairman Clark reported that the Bylaws Committee held multiple meetings to review and revise our current bylaws to strengthen our structure. Additional information will be forthcoming.

**c). Strategic Planning Update:** Chairman Clark reported that one of the mandates emerging from LB69 requires the Commission to develop a strategic plan. He explained that the Commission would be issuing a request for proposals and reviewing the proposals received thus far. Additionally, he noted that discussions would be held to explore expanding the scope of the strategic plan.

#### 4. Executive Session

Chairman Clark called for a motion to enter executive session. Commissioner Terri Crawford made the motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter, and Commissioner Johnny Nesbit seconded. The public and staff were then excused from the session.

Once the session concluded, Chairman Clark welcomed the public back and called for a motion to exit executive session. Commissioner Easter made the motion, with Commissioner Trevon Clark seconding. The public meeting then resumed.

Chairman Clark requested a motion to remove Simone Smith from administrative leave, effective immediately. Commissioner JoAnna LeFlore-Ejike moved the motion, and Commissioner Terri Crawford seconded.

**Roll Call Vote: YEAS:** Commissioners Laban Njuguna; JoAnna LeFlore-Ejike; Johnny Nesbit; Trevon Brooks; Tim Clark; Ted Lampkin; Terri Crawford; Gwen Easter.

Commissioners Quentin Brown, Connie Edmond, Glenn Freeman, Clarice Jackson, and Dorothy Johnson did not vote.

#### 5. Commission Elections

Chairman Clark announced that there are four vacant positions on the Commission: Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Member-at-Large.

**a). Nominations for Vice Chair:** Chairman Clark nominated Commissioner Terri Crawford for the position of Vice Chair. Commissioner Johnny Nesbit seconded the motion. Commissioner Crawford accepted the nomination.

**Roll Call Vote: YEAS:** Commissioners Laban Njuguna; JoAnna LeFlore-Ejike; Johnny Nesbit; Trevon Brooks; Tim Clark; Ted Lampkin; Terri Crawford; Gwen Easter

Commissioners Quentin Brown, Connie Edmond, Glenn Freeman, Clarice Jackson, and Dorothy Johnson did not vote.

**b). Nominations for Treasurer:** Commissioner Johnny Nesbit self-nominated for the position of Treasurer. Commissioner JoAnna LeFlore-Ejike seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote: YEAS:** Commissioners Laban Njuguna; JoAnna LeFlore-Ejike; Johnny Nesbit; Trevon Brooks; Tim Clark; Ted Lampkin; Terri Crawford; Gwen Easter

Commissioners Quentin Brown, Connie Edmond, Glenn Freeman, Clarice Jackson, and Dorothy Johnson did not vote.

**c). Nominations for Secretary:** Commissioner Crawford nominated Ted Lampkin for the position of Secretary, and Commissioner Brooks seconded the nomination. Commissioner Lampkin accepted the nomination.

**Roll Call Vote: YEAS:** Commissioners Laban Njuguna; JoAnna LeFlore-Ejike; Johnny Nesbit; Trevon Brooks; Tim Clark; Ted Lampkin; Terri Crawford; Gwen Easter.

Commissioners Quentin Brown, Connie Edmond, Glenn Freeman, Clarice Jackson, and Dorothy Johnson did not vote.

**d). Nominations for Member at Large:** Commissioner Laban Njuguna nominated Commissioner Trevon Brook for Member-at Large. Commissioner Brook declined the nomination and nominated Commissioner Gwen Easter. Commissioner Easter accepted the nomination.

**Roll Call Vote: YEAS:** Commissioners Laban Njuguna; JoAnna LeFlore-Ejike; Johnny Nesbit; Trevon Brooks; Tim Clark; Ted Lampkin; Terri Crawford; Gwen Easter.

Commissioners Quentin Brown, Connie Edmond, Glenn Freeman, Clarice Jackson, and Dorothy Johnson did not vote.

Commissioner Clark congratulated the new officers and requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lampkin motioned, and Commissioner Brooks seconded.

**Adjournment** - 1 PM CST on January 29, 2025

**Minutes Prepared by:** Candace Reid, NCAA staff