

Minutes of the August 5, 2022, meeting of the Kansas African American Affairs Commission

Call to Order: 2:43 pm

Roll Call: Present: Stacey Knoell, Jonathan McRoy, Dr. Beryl New, Dr. Anthony Lewis, Jonathon Westbrook, Talia Penn, Mark McCormick

- Absent: Dr. Trent Davis (who had technical difficulties getting in but he was trying)

There was no public comment nor any special guest.

Executive Director Update: The Lunch and learns have begun and are going well. We average around 5-10 people watching in real-time and garnering 100-200 views. The live stream is every Monday at noon on the Facebook page so feel free to share the videos with your social media network.

Juneteenth around the state was busy. KAAAC did not host an event, but Director Knoell attended programs on June 6th at the Capitol (along with Commissioner New and the Governor), June 11th in Junction City, Kansas, and June 15th at The Kansas African American Museum in Wichita, and June 18th in Johnson County.

The State of Black Kansas Report is in the infancy stage. Director Knoell has had initial meetings with Kenya Cox, Bonita Gooch, and Senator Foust-Godeau to discuss how we could do another SBK Report. One idea that has risen to the top is to approach other state agencies and ask them to separate out information from their yearly reports that pertain to the Black community. We are discussing the format (newspaper article or website) and the intended audience (legislators or the public). Director Knoell will keep us up to date on the progress of those conversations.

New Business: The first phase of strategic planning is complete. All commissioners who were able to attend the in-person retreat on July 29th expressed their gratitude and enjoyment of the day. The commission received the full report from the retreat earlier that day so there was no time to properly digest the contents ahead of this meeting. Commissioners were asked to review the report in its entirety for discussion at our next meeting in December.

New Business: Commissioner McRoy is working with Michele Vann to secure a space and time for the town hall in Wichita on September 10. The town hall will be publicized and give us an opportunity to inform the community about what we are doing and hear from the community what they need from us.

While it will be important for Commissioners local to Wichita to attend the event, it is not a mandatory event for Commissioners who live out of town.

New Business: The newly appointed Commissioner, Talia Penn, introduced herself to the group and shared that she learned a lot at the strategic planning session and looks forward to serving her community.

Announcements: Commissioner McCormick mentioned that Hutchinson, Kansas has an Emancipation Day Celebration and that we should have a presence there moving forward. Commissioner McCormick also announced that The Kansas African American Museum has announced a new capital campaign for a new museum to move to a new location in the Old Sunflower Bank on Main Street in Downtown Wichita.

The next meeting will be Friday, December 2nd, 2:30 pm on a virtual platform.

Adjourned: 3:34 pm