Minutes of the Kansas African American Affairs Commission meeting, May 5, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 pm by Chair Mark McCormick.

Present: Dr. Beryl New, Mark McCormick, Dr. Anthony Lewis, Jonathan McRoy, Talia Penn, Johnathan Westbrook

Absent: Dr. Trent Davis

Executive Director Stacey Knoell gave an update on her activities and plans. The Lunch and Learn series is continuing and gaining an audience on YouTube. She has been connecting Black business incubators with the Department of Commerce. Currently, the focus has shifted to planning KAAAC town halls and collaborating with The Community Voice Newspaper to plan two “Black Women Get Fit” events in Topeka and Wichita. Director Knoell provided a brief update on the “Kansas 250” Semi-quintennial celebration commission. Commissioner Jonathan McRoy restated his interest in participating in the planning of the 250th anniversary of the country.

The Commission discussed the various upcoming Juneteenth celebrations around the state and Director Knoell asked if any commissioner had plans to attend an event, if could they perhaps distribute materials promoting the KAAAC. This led to a discussion of what “swag” may be offered and the cost of such. Commissioner Penn requested to see the cost of any past or potential future purchases.

Upcoming events:

* + 6/24 Town Hall Salina
  + 7/22 “Town Hall” Wichita with Child Advocate
  + 7/29 Black Women Get Fit in Topeka
  + 8/12 Town Hall Topeka
  + 8/19 Black Women Get Fit in Wichita

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 pm