**Kansas African American Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Friday, September 8, 2023

**Location:** Via Zoom

**Present:**

* Chairman McCormick
* Commissioner Davis
* Commissioner Lewis
* Commissioner McRoy
* Commissioner New
* Commissioner Penn
* Commissioner Westbrook
* Executive Director Knoell

**Public attending:**

* Katrin Osterhaus, Legislative Post Audit

**Meeting called to order:** Chairman McCormick called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**Chairman's Opening Comments:** Chairman McCormick expressed his concern about issues raised in the audit that were not discussed in the meeting. He highlighted the importance of addressing conflicts openly and expressed disappointment that some issues had not been shared during the meeting.

**Discussion on Public Audit Presentation:** Commissioner New raised concerns about not being notified about the public presentation of the audit findings. She questioned how commissioners should expect to be informed about such events in the future.

Executive Director Knoell explained that the auditor notified her that Chairman McCormick would receive an advance copy of the audit but no other commissioners as the audit would still be considered “confidential”. Director Knoell asked if Chairman McCormick would be allowed to represent the commission at the meeting, however, the auditor relayed that he would not be allowed to answer questions at the committee meeting.

Commissioner Davis also expressed concerns and wanted clarification on the process for commissioners to be informed and participate in similar events.

**Discussion of handling expenditures:** The discussion surrounded the need for “best practices” and the establishment of a spending ceiling under which the Executive Director can operate before involving the wider commission.

**Discussion of Minutes:** Commissioner Penn raised the issue of striking from the minutes of the September meeting the discussion of the committees to amend the minutes of the previous meeting and to retake the vote. Westbrook made a motion to amend the minutes of the last meeting and to take a new vote for committees in the current meeting. Motion passed: 6-1 (McCormick, Penn, McRoy, New, Davis, Westbrook in favor. Lewis, opposed.)

**Discussion on Forming Committees:** Chairman McCormick discussed the importance of addressing issues openly and resolving conflicts. He also mentioned the need for committees to work effectively within the Commission.

Commissioners volunteered for the following committees:

* McCormick – executive committee and business and economic development, public affairs
* New – public affairs, education, legislative
* Westbrook – public affairs, education, legislative, budget
* Davis – special projects, public affairs, legislative, economic development
* Penn – legislative, educational, budget
* McRoy – legislative, economic, special projects
* Lewis – education, legislative, special projects

Motion to adopt the committees as listed moved by Davis, seconded by Lewis, motion carried unanimously.

**Motion to Establish a Special Committee for this meeting:** Due to the time-sensitive nature of pending sponsorship requests, Commissioner Penn made a motion to establish a special committee to discuss the Black Women Get Fit, Game Changer Gala, and NAACP Freedom Fund events during this meeting. In the future, this will be an assignment for the budget/finance committee. Davis seconded. (Motion carried unanimously)

Discussion of the sponsorship levels: Dr. New made a motion to allow the Executive Director to pay for the Black Women Get Fit and the two additional events at a max of $500 from the Foundation funds and that is the only purchase that can be made. (New, McCormick, Davis, McRoy, Lewis, Penn, voted yes. Westbrook had dropped off the call)

* Black Women Get Fit - $150
* NAACP Freedom Fund – two tickets
* Game Changer Gala – two tickets

**Adjournment:** Commissioner Davis moved to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

*Meeting minutes prepared by Jonathan McRoy & Stacey Knoell*