



## Commission Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 21, 2015

The Commission Board Meeting took place on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 and a quorum was seated at 10:44 am. Chairman Melton opened the meeting and asked Commissioner Dr. Vernon Smith to pray the invocation.

### **Roll Call**

Laura Heinrich proxy for Jerome Adams, Shanel Poole, Warren Boyd proxy for Adrienne Shields, Lynn Smith proxy for Kevin Moore, Representative Vernon Smith, Eddie Melton, Kenneth Allen, Elijah Neal, John Barnes proxy for Glenda Ritz and Marco Deckard proxy for Jamal Smith.

**Staff** – James Garrett Jr.

### **Invocation**

Representative Dr. Vernon G. Smith offered the invocation.

### **Introductions**

No introductions.

### **Adoption of Minutes**

Commissioner Vernon Smith moved for the approval of the minutes from the November 19, 2014 meeting, be adopted as presented and the motion was seconded by Kenneth Allen. Minutes adopted unanimously.

### **Financial Report**

The financial report was presented and Laura Heinrich moved for the acceptance of the financial report and the motion was seconded by Warren Boyd. The financial report was accepted unanimously.

### **Subcommittee Report**

#### *Commissioner Allen Annual Event committee*

Commissioner Allen reported his subcommittee has met with Ms. Arnetta Scruggs of the Bloom Project. He will provide the copy of his report. The discussion from Kenneth's report generated dialogue regarding the Commission having its own identity back and not always piggy backing on other groups or organizations. Dr Smith mentioned we need to re-establish our own identity and he had questions regarding the costs associated with this partnership. There were additional concerns aired and a general consensus that we even with the partnership need to get back to our annual conference, even if for only one day. Lynn Smith and Dr. Smith shared with the Commission the past conferences and the need to re-engage our volunteer base, donation base and recommit to this effort. Toward that end, Chairman Melton, Shanel Poole, Lynn Smith, Dr. Smith and Warren Boyd agreed to serve on the subcommittee to develop an annual conference event for 2015

Next item for discussion was the coordination of the Black male youth day at the Statehouse. It was determined that this should be a priority and Dr. Smith volunteered to take the lead on this effort.

Chairman Melton asked James to review attendance by Commissioners and proxies over the past years so an assessment can be made to reach out to those who have not been attending meetings. Once the report is prepared an action strategy will be initiated to re-engage those Commissioners who have been absent.

Finally, it was mentioned the Commission needs to do a better job of tracking and being aware of legislation. For instance Representative Greg Porter has an education bill of interest to the Commission. So the thought is to have some type of legislative update or bill tracker that the Commission can disseminate to our stakeholders, leaders and interested groups or organizations.

### **New Business**

The election of Commission officers, Chairman and Vice Chair. Nominations were taken from the floor and Dr. Smith nominated Eddie Melton for Chairman, Kenneth Allen seconded the nomination. Hearing no additional nominations from the floor, nominations for the Chairman were closed and Eddie Melton was unanimously elected Chairman of the Commission for 2015.

Next the floor was opened for nominations for the Vice Chair position. Dr. Smith nominated Kenneth Allen and Eddie Pillow seconded the nomination. Hearing no additional nominations from the floor the nominations for Vice Chair were closed and Kenneth Allen was unanimously elected Vice Chair of the Commission for 2015.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Lynn Smith moved for adjournment of the meeting at 11:58 am and the motion was seconded by Elijah Neal.