

**COCONINO COUNTY**  
**AFRICAN AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES: June 10, 2020**

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>FOLLOWUP</b>
<p><b>Council Officers</b>  [X] Breaunna Smith, Chair  [X] Khara House, Vice Chair and Communications &amp; Social Media Liaison</p> <p><b>Council Members</b>  [X] Deb Harris  [X] Amber Jones  [X] Laurel Matsuda  [X] Dr. Tracye A. Moore  [A] Melisa Tunley</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Also, Present:</i>  Sarah King  Penni Honey  Kyle Nitschke  Bill Ring  Eric Peterson  Susie Garretson</p>			
<b>1) CALL TO ORDER</b>	The meeting was called to order at 5:50 PM		
<b>2) OPENING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b>	A. Introductions	None	
<b>3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	A. Discussion and possible action on approving the June 3, 2020 AAAC meeting minutes: Council Member Harris moved to approve the June 3, 2020 AAAC meeting minutes. Council member Moore seconded the motion and it passed.	<b>APPROVED 6/0/0</b>	
<b>4) NEW BUSINESS</b>	A. Bill Edwards, AAAC Applicant: Breaunna Smith, AAAC Chair: Table until we have his resume. B. The Traveling Peace Pole: Sarah King and Penni Honey, Flagstaff Peace Committee members: Flagstaff Peace Day Celebration is a part of the United Nations International Day of Peace, which takes places yearly on September 21. Flagstaff Peace Day occurs annually, as close to Sept 21 as possible and the celebrations takes place is at Heritage Square. Groups that promote peace may table at this event. There is a permanent peace pole, with languages from around the world, at Heritage Square, as well as at the Federated Church, NAU, and the Friends Christian Church. There is also a Traveling Peace Pole and they would like to bring it to the County. For the placing of it there would be a		

procession that would start at the Heritage Square Peace Pole and walk it to the County location. It was noted that AAAC does not have a physical location, but there might be a place at the County. They are in contact with the Southside Community Association (SCA) currently. Around September 21, there will also be a Policy of Peace Symposium where different organizations will speak to how they communicate peace in the community. They would help identify areas that require improvement and ones that could improve. They already have City Council member, Adam Shimoni, Felicia French, and Lena Wallen signed up to participate. AAAC could possibly participate with SCA.

C. Flagstaff Funding Gaps that cause systemic crime (lack of guaranteed food, lack of stable housing, mental health needs, substance use, domestic abuse, and physical health needs): Kyle Nitschke, Arizona Students Organizing Director: This group has done a lot of work with voter registration work. Recently they have asked for the defunding of FPD and putting that money in to efforts to decrease the lack of guaranteed food, stable housing, mental health needs, substance abuse, domestic abuse, and physical health needs. He noted that 52% of arrests in 2019 were of Indigenous People. On Tuesday they are doing protest and rally. Currently FPD is receiving \$400,000 less than \$24 million. Arizona Students would like to get AAAC feedback as to where \$400,000 should go. They plan to get a working group going in next couple of weeks. They would like to cut 50% of the \$24 million budget, with \$12 million to go to social programs. This is start of conversation. Other groups they are collaborating with include Indigenous Action and Democratic Socialists. Kyle will send an email to Susie to distribute. Areas they have considered having the money distributed to include rental assistance program and foodbanks,

AAAC comments: FPD should conduct Diversity Training on a continual basis; Black

Lives Matter movement should not be used as a platform to change the focus off of the needs of Flagstaff African Americans; The City budget is almost complete, so chances of changing it are not good; FPD is not the cause; Bigger issues include housing, education, health, and employment; It's time for a bigger conversation. Kyle was encouraged to speak to other African American groups such as SCA, NAACP, and Black churches. Kyle was thanked for asking AAAC for its input and encouraged to contact Deb Harris at SCA and to keep AAAC updated.

D. Discussion with the Coconino County Attorney and advice on race relations and law enforcement: Bill Ring, Coconino County Attorney: Bill is here because he is seeking to establish a relationship with AAAC and to express solidarity with the African American community. He wants to engage in conversation and understanding. He expressed that the best way to lead is to draw alongside, and not to lead by pulling or telling. The County has special privilege in the community and can accomplish great things, but it can also do harm. He asked for AAAC's advice on how he can do better.

AAAC comments:

- Look at how young people are being treated in the system and how they are prosecuted for misdemeanors. Many situations could be solved without jail and community service. Efficiency is not always the best because an attorney wants to get through his/her case load.
- Have internships specifically for African American students. Bill explained that minorities are underrepresented in the law, and when someone does become available, they are snatched up by higher paying organizations. His office does have these internships through placement offices at University of Arizona and Arizona State University. It was suggested that he seek interns through

All: Give Bill ideas on how County Attorney's office can do better; Send potential student interns to him;

Bill: Contact Dr. Tracye Moore

Northern Arizona University, deal directly with departments and work with students who are Criminal Justice majors. Bill will contact Dr. Tracye Moore regarding internships at NAU. Currently NAU interns are steered into areas focused around detention. Bill wants his office to be a conduit of good to introduce them to what is possible and wants to give students an opportunity to see the law.

E. Discussion on Virtual Juneteenth and possible action to approve funding for Juneteenth: Breaunna Smith, AAAC Chair, and Deb Harris, Southside Community Association Director: The Juneteenth video is 20 minutes long. Deb has sent out the one-minute trailer to funders and sponsors. The video will be shown on June 20. After the video there will be a virtual Zoom conversation, with Dr. Guthrie about the history of Juneteenth and it will be interactive. Deb is also working with Shawn at the City. The Zoom conversation is sponsored by SCA. No more funds for Juneteenth are needed.

F. Discussion on Essay Contest: Breaunna Smith, AAAC Chair: It was noted that they could possibly have another bonus topic. It will be open to anyone, including African American families. The desired outcome is to educate and inform. In the past, Black History Month ended with a reception where first place winners got to read their essay, awards were given, and all participants received certificates. One year all the essays were published in a binder and each writer received one. It was low budget. The question of what the contest will look like in a digital format was raised. For this contest it was recommended to form an Essay Contest committee of two to three members to put the process together and bring back to the Council. The committee will consist of Khara (Coordinator), Breaunna (advertisement, digital format), and Laurel. will consider what it will look like if it must be remote. Susie will

Deb: Send trailer, video, flyer, and Zoom conversation log in information too Susie and Eric

Eric: Put trailer, video, flyer, and Zoom conversation log in info on County YouTube page, Connect, Facebook, and media

Susie: Send trailer, video, flyer, and Zoom conversation log in info to Councils and contacts: Process Lawrence's check.

Susie: Find past essay contest info

	<p>find records of past essay contests.</p> <p>G. Discussion and possible action on COVID-19 donation of items or funding: Breaunna Smith, AAAC Chair: Deb will reach out to Black churches and NAACP to see if they have members who have been affected. Eric noted that AAAC can give donations of items to whoever they like, but funds can only go to organizations. If materials are needed, Eric or Susie can get them and charge to the AAAC account.</p> <p>H. The Guidance Center Collaboration (TGC) - Processing Racial Trauma: Breaunna Smith, AAAC Chair: Breaunna received permission from TGC CEO to reach out to clientele regarding mental health and forming a racial trauma group for those who are experiencing triggers. She would like suggestions from AAAC members on how the best way to go about it is and on anything this group might benefit from. She would like to know if the Council would like to partner with TGC in this effort.</p> <p>AAAC comments: AAAC members don't have that training on mental health/trauma, nor how to facilitate or engage in those conversations; SCA is in the process of putting together community conversations; TGC can provide information to SCA, Black churches and NAACP. We are</p> <p>It was explained that the group from TGC that wants to do this are therapists of color in Flagstaff. As a cosponsor, AAAC member would not be expected to give therapy but would get information as to when and where groups are meeting and to help get the information out, as they realize they must go where people are already meeting. They would also like suggestions on best places to meet and if AAAC members have seen things that would be helpful to this effort.</p>		<p>Deb: Reach out to Black churches &amp; NAACP</p> <p>All: Send suggestion to Breaunna</p>
<p><b>5) OLD BUSINESS</b></p>	<p>Board of Supervisors (BOS) Meeting June 10: Breaunna and Khara reported that the Council's presentation to BOS went well and that it was good to see what the other councils</p>		<p>Eric, send info re the BOS meeting</p>

	<p>are doing. They also reported that the Board did not approve the changes to the Bylaws as the Councils had agreed on. Supervisors Babbott and Parks were ready to approve as presented, but Supervisors Fowler, Ryan, and Archuleta wanted the changes. They want the Councils to make recommended changes and sent them back for approval. Eric explained the areas of concern: 6-year terms (change to 4 years), number of members (raising from 11 to 15; Number of minimum meetings (lower from 10 meetings a year), representation in every district. There were no issues with name change. Susie and Eric will pull together Liz/Matt to have conversation next Wednesday night. The Board's last meeting before vacation is June 29. There was considerable discussion on the meeting and what to do next. AAAC comments: AAAC members wondered why Councils were even asked to work on the revisions if the Board is going to not approve the agreements that the Councils came to over after four months of meetings.</p> <p>Logo: Amber redesigned the logo with the new Council name of African Diaspora Advisory Council, using the last designed logo and she will use power point. Public Affairs will put it in the right format.</p> <p>Covid-19: Khara reported that people coming to testing on June 9 was the first day that more than half were not wearing masks.</p>		
<p><b>6) FINANCE</b></p>	<p>A. Finance Report – Susie Garretson, Diversity Council Coordinator: There is \$1775.20 in the account.</p> <p>B. Discussion and possible action on expense approval – Breaunna Smith, AAAC Chair: Council member Harris moved to approve up to \$500 to pay for Covid-19 donations or supplies. Council member Matsuda seconded the motion and it passed. Chair Smith and Vice Chair House granted member Harris the authority to distribute the funds on the Council's behalf.</p>	<p><b>APPROVED 6/0/0</b></p>	<p>Susie: Put on next agenda Covid-19 support</p>
<p><b>7) ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p>	<p>June 20, 2020 Virtual Juneteenth June 22-26 Diversity Week June 24 Diversity Day June 17 (Possible) Tri-Diversity Meeting 5:30 June 29 BOS meeting</p>		<p>Eric: Send meeting links that will stay the same for all Council</p>

			meetings.
<b>8) NEXT MEETING DATES</b>	July 8, 2020 AAAC Meeting August 12, 2020 AAAC Meeting (possibly cancel)		
<b>9) ADJOURNMENT</b>	Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.	<b>ADJOURNED</b>	

Respectfully Submitted by Susie Garretson



Breaunna Smith, Chair of Coconino County African American Advisory Council



Susie Garretson, Coconino County Diversity Council Coordinator

