THE AFRICAN HERITAGE CULTURAL CLUB
General Meeting
September 1, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 10:33 am by Prentiss Gates Vice-President.

WORDS OF INSPIRATION - Rosemary Jones

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS - Ellie Graham, President welcomed everyone after the summer break. She announced that today's meeting would be abbreviated, in order for candidates for the upcoming AHCC elections to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion was made to approve the June 2026 minutes by Keith Eaton and seconded by Maureen Bennett.

REPORTS -

- **Correspondence Secretary** - Margaret Graham read a thank you note from Eugenia and Rochelle Young for the support during their recent bereavement.

- **Treasurer** - Sheila Samuel presented the financial report for the month of August.
  Opening balance $11,402.52
  Total income - $1,015
  Total expenses - $862.74
  Closing balance - $11,554.78:

- **Financial Secretary** - No report

- **Membership** - Sheila Haire apologized for not having name tags available for today's meeting. She reported that year to date there have been 6 renewals and 31 new members for a total of 291 members.

- **Program -** In Yvonne Loney's absence, Ellie Graham announced that the Smooth Jazz event was a huge success. The Holiday/Christmas party is scheduled for December 18. The colors will be black, red and gold. Music may be provided by Jared Armstrong plus a DJ. Catering with a bar will also be available.

- **Outreach -** Denise Johnson thanked the Men of AHCC and the Sistahs who Bake for the refreshments. She and her committee will continue to focus on the Winter Haven mission. Volunteering will be the focus for the remainder of the year and a tentative schedule will be available next month.

- **Parliamentarian** - Joan Hogarth announced that the election process begins today after Bobby Vance's presentation.

- **Historian** - Bobby Vance reminded us that this is election time and it is important that we equip ourselves with the knowledge to vote. He showed videos depicting the history of

voting and urged us to do the work and vote in the elections, both AHCC and political elections.

- **Nominating Committee** - Keith Eaton introduced the slate of candidates for election in the upcoming election. He introduced the Nominating Committee and explained the selection process. Nominations were made by the membership. Each candidate was given three minutes to introduce themselves, after which request was made for nominations from the floor. There were none. Candidates will be available after the meeting for questions and answers. Guidelines for voting, including remote voting, are attached to these minutes.

- **Club Announcements**

Page Turners Book Club - September's book is ***Indigo*** by Beverly Jenkins. The book club will meet on September 24, at 2:00 pm in the Rivera.
SAHCC - Dr. Lois Duncan announced that Tony Loney is the new president.

MEETING ADJOURNED - Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sheila Haire and seconded by Rosann Carter. Meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Marion Hogarth
Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 6, 2026 - 10:30 AM STARLITE BALLROOM

WEBSITE: ahcc-Solivita.org
Username: ahcc2014
Password: weareahcc
Facebook African Heritage Cultural Club - AHCC

NOTICE TO MEMBERS REGARDING VOTING

1. **Ballot Issuance:** Ballots will be issued after you pick up your name badge.

2. **Voter Eligibility:** Only members in good standing are eligible to vote.

3. **Name Badges:** If you do not have a name badge, please visit the Check-In Desk. They will verify your membership and issue a paper name tag.

4. **Ballot Submission:** A ballot box will be available for you to drop off your completed ballot.

5. **Floor Collection:** When the President calls for all remaining ballots, members of the Election Committee will collect ballots directly from the floor.

6. **Floor Nominations:** Nominations may be made from the floor, provided the nominee is present at the meeting to accept the nomination.

Special Notes:

- **Provisional Ballots:** If there is a question regarding your membership, you will be issued a provisional ballot.

- **Electronic Voting:** If you need to vote electronically, please email Akilah Mashariki at **akilahmash6@yahoo.com**. You will receive detailed instructions for electronic voting via return email. All electronic voting must be completed by Friday, October 2, 2026.