

City of Hyattsville, Race & Equity Task Force Committee
Meeting Minutes
Date: October 22, 2024
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Participants:

Task Force Members:

- Co-Chair Alicia Freemyn (AF)
- Co-Chair Daniel Amador (DA)
- Record Keeper Secretary Jocelyn Medallo (JM)
- Member Rosheen Kabraji (RK)
- Member Idara Akpan (IA)

Staff:

- Race & Equity Officer Shakira Louimarre (SL)

Community Members:

- Maximiliano Vasquez (MV)
- Chuck

7:09 pm - Welcome & Call to Order – Co-chair Amador

7:09 pm - 7:10 pm – **Roll Call** – Co-chair Freemyn

7:10pm – 7:11pm – **Acknowledgement of Guests and Public Comment** – Co-chair Amador

- Welcome, Maximiliano and Chuck.

7:11 pm – 7:19 pm – **Equity Officer Update**– Liaison Louimarre

- Council Member Lee shared information about West Hyattsville sector plan and all the plans for community-centered design. This was reviewed during the Monday Council meeting. Additionally, myself as well as Deputy City Administrator Reams and Community & Business Economic Director Jeff Ulysee all attended an economic mobility workshop hosted by the Urban Institute, MWCOG, GARE – to introduce an upward mobility framework to help governments and community partners conceptualize what it looks like for folks to move from surviving to thriving vis a vis equitable investments. It could us something to think about for updates to the plan. It incorporates data dashboard, opportunity insights. One of the most interesting things was Fairfax County has an economic mobility pilot program which introduced a Universal Income to select families, and they received great results. There is a case study and other data.
- In addition, two upcoming community events: 1) November 14 – there will be a community cultural conversation in regards to the many faces of the Latinx diaspora, highlighting Latinx voices in Hyattsville at San Mateo Church – full interpretation will be available; and 2) December 3 6pm-7:15pm at Hyattsville Library – the Office of Human

Rights is holding a community-wide book read on “The Sum of Us” – discussing how race and racist policies have an ill effect on everyone. We are giving free books at the City building. First come, first serve. Please encourage your neighbors to participate as well.

- IA: Ward 4 Community Meeting – Council Member Lee was there. People wanted to know about our Committee because many people had not heard about it. We shared the draft Equity Plan and shared the QR code.
- DA: We have some emails for folk who are interested to learn more about the RETF and draft Equity Plan. There are a few community members who are aware of resident-maintained listservs. Is there interest in developing language to share with that listserv?
- SL: Our Communications team has guidelines about how we interact with listservs. I will get more specific guidance from them about engaging.
- DA: Is there preference to share that in our personal capacity or more official?
 - AF: Where would this communication live? As a community members, not representing the RETF. It would be good in general to share what we heard and ask if there is other feedback, but it would be good to clarify in what role we are communicating.
 - DA: It’s a Google group called West Hyattsville @ Google Groups – primarily Ward 4 residents. If there are not objections, I can proceed as myself and share information.

7:19 pm – 8:25 pm – Equity Plan Community Engagement Work Session– Liaison Louimarre

- Work Session Objective: Committee members should form a consensus on the following issues which will be formatted into a complete engagement plan by the.
- *Review Executive Summary Framework* – want to provide a short digestible document for residents to give their feedback. RK thought it would be good to be 2 pages, with plain language text and a simple graphic design. Also add language about limitations on translation. Using Canva to design and make it more engaging.
 - Proposed timeline: Aiming to be able to workshop language in the last week of October.
 - SL: This document and Hello Hyattsville page could be done by the first week of November.
 - AF: What additional support do you need from the group?

- RK: I would appreciate once I have condensed it to make sure I have the topline recommendations and information that you all feel is the most integral part of this document.
 - DA: Up top, can add that in the report you will find short, mid, and long-term recommendations and here you will find the highlights.
 - JM: Second that recommendation.
 - SL: We can hyperlink and use QR codes to point people to more information. I meet with Cindy our PIO to go through set up of Hello Hyattsville page itself and will speak about this.
- *Review the Survey Framework and Draft Questions*
 - IA: We decided to do 7 scaled questions and then asking how the recommendations reflect your value, by topic. We are aiming for no more than 15 minutes to complete the survey.
 - DA: I like definitions of the different sections of the plan. But the text that precedes the question doesn't share the recommendations.
 - SL: Are you thinking of striking these definitions and using the recommendations on the survey format?
 - DA: Yes, that could work.
 - AF: Recommendations without a definition might also be confusing. I don't want to oversaturate people. It can be a lot of information. Might want to try a few options – recommendation or definition and recommendation? I am supportive of reducing the amount of steps needed to take the survey.
 - IA: I was thinking that questions were paired with the summary.
 - JM: Add optional comment box for each section.
 - IA: Agree that it should be optional.
 - DA: For question 1, want to make sure the question is reflective of what we measure. Could be “How did you engage with the equity plan” – and being able to measure it based on their responses. Love the values piece. Maybe the question that I would ask how are we looking at the results from the survey – would it supplement our plan and provide the city with more data on where they focus or where they should act. If the answer is yes, maybe the question is: to what extent should the city act on the recommendations?
 - AF: Love that and curious about what IA thinks.
 - IA: We were developing the questions with the reality that some people may not want.

- DA: Asking about their values versus the city acting, would that dissuade some people in acting?
- *Develop Plan for in-person Community Engagement Session*
 - SL: A question that remains is: do you want one of your meetings into an engagement session, as recommended by Council Member Haba? Is there interest and if so, potential dates?
 - All agreed.
 - When? One of the challenges is that as we move closer to the end of the year, many dates are close to holidays. The next two meetings are November 19 and December 17.
 - JM: What is the engagement timeline?
 - SL: One of the Council commentaries coming out of your presentation was to keep in mind the budget season when it would be helpful to have for decision-making and priorities – that is December through February. January is the core time. Another set of dates to consider: the City does a resident satisfaction survey and some of those results could have more data to work with – that is not scheduled until February/March 2025, though City may be able to preliminary data by January 2025.
 - DA: Executive Summary done around November and then survey will be out, which will raise awareness and build momentum. We may be able to get more participation in January. Engagement beyond the budgeting period is fine and doesn't preclude us from having a position during the budgeting.
 - IA: I would prefer to get this out before the budgeting window. People may come out in November/December, depending on how we frame it. Can we use the Google slides?
 - DA: Would we have the support of the facilitator group to help facilitate this discussion?
 - SL: It would not be on y'all to facilitate but you would have a role. That group could be the facilitator. The other group that the City partners with is an art-based group.
 - JM: Visual note-taking and art sounds good and can transcend language.
 - RK: Second the vote on visual note-taking and turning it into art.
 - AF: The group is looking at **December 17th date** and reaching out to look into facilitation and graphic note-taking.
 - SL: Who wants to be on the planning group?

- AF: Also good to facilitate but may not be able to plan due to travel.
- IA: Also here to support but cannot lead it.
- RK: Also happy to help out.
- SL: To recap, aiming to have English documents by first week of November and then the Spanish translations. Aiming to close out community engagement by December 31st. Facilitator group would provide a plan and RETF would provide feedback. I will take the lead to reach out to get the pricing and from there, I will reach out if there is an exploratory call. For November agenda, we will look at amended meeting schedule dates for 2025. One administrative thing is DA to please send the notes for approval at the next meeting.

8:27 pm – Adjourn Meeting – Co-chair Amador

- November agenda: we will look at amended meeting schedule dates for 2025.
- One administrative thing: request DA to please send the notes for approval at the next meeting.
- DA: We have an email (equity@hyattsville.org) if there are any other comments folks want to share.