

**City of Hyattsville
Race & Equity Task Force
April 25, 2023
Zoom
Minutes**

PRESENT

Task Force Members:

- Co-Chair Alicia Sanchez Gill Freemyn (AF)
- Co-Chair Jennifer Gafford (JG)
- Record Keeper Secretary Jocelyn Medallo (JM)
- Member Daniel Amador (DA)

Staff:

- Race & Equity Officer Shakira Louimarre (SL)

Guests:

- Chuck Perry

7:03 pm – Welcome & Call to Order – Co-Chair Gafford

7:03 pm – Roll Call – Co-Chair Freemyn

7:04 pm - 7:05 pm – Acknowledgement of Guests– Co-chair Freemyn

7:05 pm -- Opportunity to Amend Agenda - – Co-chair Freemyn

- AF moves to amend April 25th agenda to include discussion topic of Rodrigo Blanco's resignation and to discuss about Community Outreach and Recruitment for RETF, timeline; DA seconds; all in favor.

7:06 pm - 7:08 pm -- Adoption of February Meeting Minutes- Secretary Medallo

- AF adopt and approve March 2023 minutes; JG seconds.

7:08 pm – Resignation of Rodrigo Blanco

- Read Rodrigo's message to the RETF. RETF thanks Rodrigo for his time and institutional wisdom.
- AF: What are the appropriate ways to engage with him, in alignment with Open Meetings

Act? AF volunteers to take the lead on a closing interview with Rodrigo.

- SL: No problem with individual community member to follow up with Rodrigo, or could come to speak at a future meeting.
- DA: It would be good to invite Rodrigo to speak to us. I would be curious to hear about key accomplishments to build on and moving forward.
- JG: There were previous members – other resources we can pull from.
- SL: There are two applicants in the queue to invite them to the upcoming meeting in May. If they attend, Council Member Sandino and Mayor Croslin are in attendance, it can be a quick transition.

7:09 pm - 7:30 pm – Discussion of Process and Timeline for Revisions to Draft Equity Plan

– Liaison Louimarre

- Review of Process and Timeline: I am proposing that once staff feedback is shared during the presentation, that feedback is incorporated into the plan.
- Status of other sections: Transportation; and Aging and People with Disabilities; and Housing was recently done in 2022.
- DA: Facing difficulties in completing these sections;
 - Are we in the best position to research, given that we are volunteers and may not have access?
 - Would it be more ideal if we had the corresponding parts of City administration share their plans for the year, with emphasis on equity and we can provide comments and critiques that other municipalities are doing?
- AF: In terms of first question, for the Policing section I did ask SL to go to PD Chief for data, researched best practice, spoke to City staff, and then made policy suggestions. This

is a real barrier. As volunteer community members, we may not have access to information.

- JG: Initial data from subject matter expert, then person attends meeting to see what we have put together; but then how do we finalize as a group? I have also been thinking about DA's suggestions. Now that we have a Race & Equity Officer, should we be acting in an advisory capacity instead of creating the materials? Should we be shifting those responsibilities during the second round?
 - SL: Feedback is incorporated directly into the draft document. There will also be time for community engagement later. To your point on shifting the process, we can shift that process.
- DA: Whatever the RETF recommendations are, it should come from the city and be incorporated into their work and reported now.
- SL: Some challenges faced by start-and-stop nature of this project, some of the Community Engagement did happen at the front end. But I am hearing that we would like SL to take the first step and then the staff leader and subject matter section would participate in a pre-emptive meeting on the section.
- AF: Is there anything we can do to be supportive of your work with the City, SL?
 - SL: The changing of the framework could work in moving things along. Once I have that framework, we should schedule a time to go through the section together. More generally, the role and vision of RETF, outside of this Equity Plan, is one of the best practices implemented by other municipalities.
- DA: We can sit in on those meetings with staff as we gather information for them from each section to make sure we're getting the right information from an equity perspective.

Once we have a draft of the plan, we can talk about more Community Engagement and feedback before it is finalized.

- JM: I can commit to joining meetings with subject matter sections.
- SL: We can revise process; it is important that we have the plan approved before November 2023 – for 2025 budget discussions.
- AF: Is there participatory community budgeting in the City? And if so, how can we be more involved?
 - Council President Solomon did propose that the City consider legislation for participatory budgeting and that has not been approved yet. In terms of the role that the RETF may have, a part of the reason to have the plan done in advance of November 2023, is that although your recommendations may not have specific budget asks in the plan, requests for specific plans may be made.
- DA: We can keep track of budget and should work with the subject matter expert from that department to determine amounts.
- SL: What month do we want?
- AF: The intent of most recent timeline was to have last presentation in September so that we could present it in November. Updated timeline:
 - May – Community Engagement
 - June - Jobs
 - July – Housing
 - August - Break
 - September - Transportation

Possibly not revisiting Aging & People with Disabilities, as this was covered. SL will take a cursory look at that section.

7:30 pm - 7:40 pm – Discussion of Design for Community Outreach Collateral–Co-chair
Freemyn

- SL: This can be done through a shared document. A mock-up design of tablecloth, banner, cards was shared by Clerk Reams and the RETF can provide feedback by end of the week. This is collateral for the outreach we plan to do – organizational branding for RETF for outreach and recruitment efforts.
- AF: Will there be space for content editing?
 - SL: Whatever feedback you'd like to give is welcome.
- JG: T-shirts that say “Ask me about RETF” which would allow us to participate in City events and mingle.

7:40 pm - 7:50 pm – Discussion of RETF Participation in April Affordable Housing Event–
Liaison Louimarre

- Virtually on Friday from 12pm-1pm. SL will present on behalf of RETF, along with original housing section.

7:50 pm - 8:20 pm – Discussion of RETF Participation in June Cultural Events – Liaison
Louimarre

- City is celebrating Juneteenth during Summer Jam. SL seeking all input and ideas. RETF welcome to table there.
- City has plans to celebrate Pride on June 9th, tentatively in the evening. The plans are tentative but in speaking with Marci, who is Staff Liaison with Age Friendly Working Group, they are interested in potentially collaborating with RETF on a panel discussion. Collaboration: ideas for questions, serving as a host or facilitator, groups that we may want to approach for panelists.

8:20 pm – Open Discussion

- No comments.

8:21 pm - 8:29 pm– Equity Officer Updates – Liaison Louimarre

- HVL City Anniversary is Friday, 7:30pm-10:00pm - Movie Night.
- Saturday, April 29th – Festival celebration from 4pm-9pm at Driskell Park.
- May 9th – Election Fest – can register in person and vote in person

8:30 pm – Review Next Meeting Agenda

- Revisit the April Affordable Housing Event and have a combined event
- Juneteenth Event
- Community Engagement Presentation

8:31 - Adjourn Meeting – Co-Chair Gafford

JG moves; AF seconds.