

**City of Hyattsville
Race & Equity Task Force
March 23, 2021, 7:00 PM
Zoom
Minutes**

Present:

Task Force Members:

- Co-chair Andrea Dargin
- Co-chair Stacie Whitesides
- Rodrigo Blanco
- LaToya Robinson
- Joanne Waszczak
- Ashleigh Brown-Grier
- Malcolm Clarke

Council:

- Councilmember Daniel Peabody

Staff

- Staff Liaison Jan Guszynski

Guests:

- Sophie Miriam Oriani
- Marshall Marshall
- Chuck Perry

Members Absent:

- Monica Sharma

Meeting called to order at 7:19PM by co-chair Dargin

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Review and approve minutes from February 23, 2021 meeting

- Moved by RB, second by ABG
- Unanimously approved

2. Green Owl Mural Project

JG: Angela Justice opened artist depiction up to living artists, since once of mural artists sent along a sketch of Faith Ringgold powerfully incorporating concept of faith

AD: Still awaiting submissions from other members, so will extend the due date to midday, March 24 (previously March 19)

- JG: Green Owl is expecting the names this week, so hoping to forward them submissions this week
- Angela Justice to attend April meeting and discuss name submissions
- List of names submitted:
 - Frida Kahlo

- John-Michel Basquiat
- Langston Hughes
- Toni Morrison
- David Driskell
- Amy Sherald
- Amir Mohamed el Khalifa (a.k.a. Oddissee)
- Billi Holliday
- Marian Anderson
- Debbie Allen
- Cab Calloway
- Faith Ringgold
- JW: Did we want to try and limit submissions to artists with connections to MD or Hyattsville artists?
 - Agreed to open it up to all geographies

3. Administrative Announcements/Debriefs

- Magruder Park Renaming Meeting

Presented memo of names generated by joint committee (RETF and Health, Wellness, and Recreation Committee) to city council last week

- David C. Driskell Community Park
- Nacotchtank Community Park
- Unity Community Park
- Gateway Community Park
- Inspiration Park

City council discussed the names, and there was debate about whether we wanted to go with an individual's name or a more universal name

- JG: Public hearing on April 5, and will keep committee updated on how agenda planning proceeds afterwards

- Idea submission for city cultural programming

Tracey Douglass suggested committees collaborate again for cultural and ethnic programming

- Intent is to execute programming that may have occurred in other municipalities, or that committee members wanted to have executed here in Hyattsville
- AD: Event ideas to be submitted to Jan by noon on March 24, 2021

JW: Attended an iftar in a community building recently, and was a way to build community and learn about Eid, and what it means to be Muslim

- Question of how such an event would be funded, and how budget works
 - JG: Cheri Everhart has authority over budget, and once event is proposed, it would be planned and executed according to city budgetary protocols

- DP: Committees don't have budgetary authority, but they can request that the city council put something in the budget for an event. If there were a program that the committee wanted to advocate for, then forward that to Jan and Councilmember Peabody to create motion for council to consider
- JG: Most of the events that are to be discussed would go into community programming calendar, budget for which falls under Cheri Everhart
 - DP: If the budget is exhausted and the committee comes up with something they want to plan later, then proposal can be brought to attention of the council

RB: Attended a world heritage type event in Silver Spring a couple years ago that could be held in Hyattsville

- New Committee Procedures and Handbook

JG: Attempt by council to formalize the city advisory committee procedures, and to communicate what roles and responsibilities are for joining a committee

- Handbook walks through overview of Hyattsville city committees
 - 11 active committees, 1 inactive, 1 pending, with 95 seats total
 - Appointments occur semi-annually (in April and October), with existing terms split between two schedules and current expired terms extending to April
 - New appointment requirements require interview with council liaison for sponsorship and attending meeting prior to appointment
- Will share this offline for committee members to review, understand responsibilities, and discuss at April meeting
- DP: Keep in mind what the committee is meant to do and consider individual onboarding process as well as what worked well in the past and might make committees more effective, such as reviewing attendance at meetings on annual basis as a criterion for continued membership. Membership process does not often get updated, so if there's anything that should be included, please provide input

4. Race and Equity Task Force Committee Debriefs

Will table discussion of definitions to next meeting, but will include in the packet for the next meeting so that committee members will be able to come with input ahead of next meeting

5. Open Discussion

No comment from members of the public

6. Adjourn Meeting

RB moves to adjourn, seconded by ABG.