

**City of Hyattsville
Race & Equity Task Force
July 27, 2021, 7:00 PM
Zoom
Minutes**

Present

Task Force Members:

- Chair Andrea Dargin
- Joanne Waszczak
- Rodrigo Blanco

Council:

- Councilmember Rommel Sandino
- Councilmember Robert Croslin
- Councilmember Daniel Peabody

Staff

- Staff Liaison Jan Guszynski

Guests:

- Bette Dickerson
- Krystin Balzarini
- Jordan Williams
- Jennifer Gafford

Members Absent:

- Malcolm Clarke
- LaToya Robinson

Meeting called to order at 7:07PM by co-chair Dargin

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Roll Call

Acknowledgement of Meeting Guests

Review and Approval of Minutes

- Moved by RB, second by JW

2. Administrative Announcements/Debriefs

New Council Liaisons

- Thank you to Councilmember Peabody
- New liaison Sandino
- New liaison Croslin

Black Artists Mural Project Update

- Needed to contact the artist who contributed to design of existing mural
- Reached out to update building owners and waiting for input

- Will be opportunity for mural to be drawn on building, pending drafting of working agreement with the city
- Depending on how long that takes, may want to shift focus to Driskell Park mural due to rededication ceremony in the fall (potentially in October)
- RC: Had a conversation with Thelma Driskell, and wants to be involved. Supposed to meet with her about how she can participate

Dimensions in Diversity Training

- JG assists HR department with some mandatory diversity training.
- Training is about classifications of bias, including language that is a carryover from previous generations
- Might benefit the task force to review the presentation
 - BD: Question on critical race theory
 - If Maryland Commission on Civil Rights does not have a workshop on that, we will find another entity to host a workshop on it
 - JW: Is this training available for young people as well as adults?
 - Most of the content seems targeted towards adult audience, but it would be a good fit for younger participants. JG will make that inquiry
 - RS: City could organize community discussions around diversity to bring these discussions to the city

Equity Officer Position

- Draft of position description has been shared with city administrators at Takoma Park, but unsure if there has been movement on filling this position yet

3. Jobs & Transportation Section Equity Plan

Question of when census data is coming out and will be made available

- JG: Should be available in September

Information about how many people both work and live in Hyattsville from American Community Survey is outdated. Would be great if equity officer could onboard around the same time that census data is made available, because then chapters could be updated with more recent information.

- When original version of equity plan was drafted, noted that many people who commute into the city cannot afford to live in Hyattsville. Need to have intersection between transit and housing chapters because wage doesn't necessarily let people afford 1- or 2BR or other housing in Hyattsville

Requests that this chapter be added to the agenda for next meeting

- AD: Should be ok, but would conflict with RB's presentation of People With Disabilities section. Would allow for interplay and intersection with accessibility of transit

BD: Not all about workers, but also elders, people with disabilities, and other categories

- JW: Covers transportation for seniors and people with disabilities. Also discusses bicycle and pedestrian options, as well as access to the PGCC. Chapter attempts to cover the gamut between how people get to work and how their employment determines where they can afford to live. Unsure how we are circulating draft of equity plan to the public; needs to be discussed by the committee.

- RB: Will address some of the issues related to disabled transportation issues in his section, and will overlap with issues of access by elderly
 - o BD: Wants it to be clear that section will address both people with disabilities as well as the elderly. Understood that both groups would be addressed.
 - AD: Not certain that in the original draft that elders was spelled out, but are aware that this is a gap that was missed. Will be included in the next version of the report. In initial data gathering, we focused on disabilities, but want to fill that gap in future drafts.
 - JW: Had difficult conversation in beginning of task force about how different aspects of identity could be covered in the equity plan. Decided that first version could cover race and ethnicity and ability and socioeconomic status. Next version of plan can have updated worksheet and expand areas covered by the equity plan. Request that council update the worksheet.

4. Open Discussion

BD: Thank Councilmember Sandino for opening discussion on participative co-learning. It is important that people should learn the “so what” and determine what they are going to do with this information.

JW: Question about the murals. Were there more murals coming up?

- AD: Primary one we were discussing was in Centennial Park. Need to go through certain approvals and buy-in for the installation to be replaced. Another mural project is underway in Driskell Park and we will be focusing on the timeline and ideas and all that in the next meeting.

5. Adjourn Meeting

Review Agenda for next meeting

- Cover People with Disabilities and Aging Section
- Brief update from Jobs and Transportation
- Discuss shift towards planning for Driskell Park mural
- Leadership Planning and Transition

RC: While the terms of some of the members are coming to an end, it doesn't mean that they need to leave the committee.

JW move to adjourn, RB second

Adjourned at 8:07PM.