

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425

4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

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**TASK FORCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY MEETING MINUTES – TWICE AMENDED**

**Lynwood Roberts Room, 1st floor, City Hall**

**March 14, 2018**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Location:** Lynwood Roberts, City Hall – St. James Building, 117 West Duval Street

**In attendance:** The Honorable Warren Jones (Co-Chair), Ju’Coby Pitman (Co-Chair),Tony Allegretti, Dr. Alan Bliss, Dr. Richard Danford, Dr. Tim Gilmore, Dr. Marvin Grant, Chris Hand, Maria Hane, Rhiley Hodges, The Honorable Rodney L. Hurst, Sr., The Honorable Rahman Johnson, John Lumpkin, Hope McMath, Marsha Phelts, Marcus Pollard, Isaiah Rumlin, Monica Smith, Lloyd Washington, Alton Yates

**Also**: Council President Anna Brosche; Kirby Oberdorfer – Office of Ethics; Joel McEachin – Planning Department; Louie Marino – Information Systems; Yvonne P. Mitchell – Council Research Division

**Meeting Convened**: 10:06 a.m.

The Honorable Warren Jones and Ju’Coby Pittman, Co-Chairs, called the meeting to order. They thanked the members and guests for their attendance and commitment to work together in formalizing Jacksonville’s Civil Rights History. Each committee member introduced themselves for the record.

Council President Anna Brosche reviewed the memorandum issued on March 7, 2018, regarding the charge of the committee. She initiated legislation to establish the Task Force on Civil Rights History after reading the Times Union article about Florida, especially Jacksonville, not being included in the newly created U.S. Civil Rights Trail. She had several conversations with community leaders that believed more needed to be done about sharing and celebrating Jacksonville’s rich civil rights history at the national, state, and local levels. This is evident in the 18 Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame Inductees of which six of them are from Jacksonville. The charge of the Task Force is to make recommendations on how the City of Jacksonville can better reflect and educate the community and beyond about its history.

Kirby Oberdorfer, Office of Ethics, stated that the Task Force members are required to follow Sunshine Law rules. All meetings must meet the three primary requirements: 1) meetings must be open to the public and accessible; 2) meetings must be reasonably noticed, and 3) meetings must be recorded and ready for inspection. Members are permitted to speak with staff members or any other interested individual pending board business. However, Task Force members are not permitted to discuss board business with each other outside of a notice meeting. Also, members are not allowed to utilize staff to build a consensus of the committee for a particular topic. Bus tours are prohibited. Ms. Oberdorfer stated that members should not whisper or give the impression that business is being discussed. Should a member want to share information with another board member, it should be forwarded to staff (Yvonne or Jeneen) to distribute. Members were provided a copy of Ethics in a Nutshell, a guideline for Boards and Commissions on Government in the Sunshine. Ms. Oberdorfer informed the committee that all communications related to Task Force business is considered a public document and must be maintained. All public requests should be reported to Jeneen Sanders.

Monica Smith, Visit Jacksonville, provided an overview of the U.S. Civil Rights Trail. The 14 states involved in the trail are also participants of Travel South USA. Travel South USA is a collaborative effort of southern states to promote tourism which was initiated by the State of Alabama to obtain a serial designation site through the World Heritage Trail. Thus, the creation of the U.S. Civil Rights Trail 2018 which explores key destinations in various cities that highlights the Civil Rights Movement between 1955 to 1968. Travel South USA is currently seeking participants for the Class of 2019. Per Ms. Smith, Visit Jacksonville is required to rejoin Travel South USA to apply for consideration. The selection of the new sites will is scheduled for late fall. She encouraged members to visit the U.S. Civil Rights Trail website. Mr. Hurst expressed his concern regarding the U.S. Civil Rights Trail application prerequisite to highlight the state and city’s historical events. Ms. Smith commented that the U.S. Civil Rights Trail is a marketing initiative that is solely funded by the 14 states. Although Visit Jacksonville intends to rejoin Travel South USA as a first step in the process, Jacksonville can develop and fund its on heritage trail. Ms. Smith will gather additional information including all associated costs and provide an update at next meeting. It was suggested that a black heritage trail is created parallel to the possible submission to the U.S. Civil Rights Trail with emphasis on the neglected and ignored rich history of Jacksonville. Chairman Jones shared that the structure of the next few meetings will provide the framework for the establishment of the local heritage trail. The next meeting will focus on the inventory of historical landmarks. Marketing and curriculum will be topics for the 3rd and 4th meeting.

Mr. Joel McEachin provided an overview of sites, events, and advocates associated with the modern Civil Rights Movement in Jacksonville. The timeline included information from 1941 to 1971. Mr. McEachin commented that the timeline did not represent a comprehensive list of Jacksonville’s history. Members were requested to review the timeline and submit information about individuals or sites to be included on the inventory list. Dr. Gilmore and Mr. Hurst will facilitate the subcommittee meetings related to the timeline and inventory list.

Mr. Lloyd Washington shared that the Durkeeville Historical Society is planning a Jazz and Historical Festival at the site of James Weldon Johnson home on April 22nd. Also, there are plans to construct a memorial on the site for the Johnson brothers.

Public Comment

Lisa Ransom, David Crowner, and Rita Reagan all offered their assistance to assist the Task Force during this process.

The Honorable Tony Hill encouraged the Task Force members to concentrate on telling Jacksonville’s story regardless of membership to any particular organization.

The next meeting will be March 28, 2018.

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:36 a.m.

The written minutes of this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed. The following items have been submitted for the public record. Please contact legislative services for these items.

Minutes: Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research

03.23.18 Posted 12:30 p.m.

Tapes: Task Force on Civil Rights History Meeting – LSD

03.12.18

Handouts: Task Force on Civil Rights History Meeting

03.12.18