

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425

4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

904-630-1377

**TASK FORCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY MEETING MINUTES - AMENDED**

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

**March 28, 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. 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, Isaiah Rumlin, Monica Smith, Adonnica Toler, Lloyd Washington, Alton Yates

**Also**: Council President Anna Brosche; Yvonne P. Mitchell – Council Research Division

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

**Meeting Convened**: 10:05 a.m.

The Honorable Warren Jones and Ju’Coby Pittman, Co-Chairs, called the meeting to order.

Ms. Monica Smith will provide an update regarding the U.S. Civil Rights Trail at a later date. She is awaiting information from Mr. Ken Lawson, President & CEO of Visit Florida.

Mr. Rodney Hurst provided a review of the Civil Rights History Timeline Subcommittee meeting. The draft timeline was distributed for review. The subcommittee requested that the final timeline is presented as a stand-alone document detailing Jacksonville’s historical events. Dr. Gilmore shared that the goal of the committee is to present a dual track. Members were invited to attend the subcommittee meetings to assist in the thorough review of the timeline. The subcommittee will meet on Tuesdays before the Task Force regular meetings. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 10th. Dr. Bliss noted that the next issue of the Jacksonville Historical Society Newsletter would include the intake form to solicit input from the community regarding historical events and notable individuals. Ms. Maria Hane suggested details and resources for the timeline include the seven noted lunching.

Dr. Brenda Simmons-Hutchins provided members an inventory list of the Jacksonville Black History Calendar. The document includes categories and people highlighted throughout the various calendar editions. The information is accessible online through the Jacksonville Public Library website. Also, Dr. Simmons-Hutchins shared that the local chapter of her sorority, Gamma Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated created and has been conducting tours of Black Historical Sites on the First Coast since 1979.

Per Mr. Chris Hand’s inquiry, Mr. Joel McEachin will provide a list of sites that are currently maintained by the City. Mr. Lloyd Washington announced that the Durkeville Historical Society has twelve historical markers throughout Jacksonville.

Council President Anna Brosche plans to meet with Ms. Carla Miller, Ethics Officer, to obtain clarity on members’ ability to attend events and share their personal stories. Based on the practical challenges presented, Council President Brosche would also inquiry with Ms. Miller about attending an upcoming meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the centralization of the final timeline considering it will be a working document and a teaching tool. The subcommittee will make recommendations for a repository and accessibility to the document. Several ideas were MOSH, Jacksonville Historic Society, UNF, and others. The committee discussed the use of the old Stanton building. Ms. Adonnica Toler reported that there is an organization currently planning to utilize the building; however, she will do some research and provide a report at the next meeting. Co-chair Pittman stated the idea of utilizing old Stanton was a great idea. For it to be successful, there has to be a buy-in of existing organizations, coordination of funds, for marketing and operational cost for continuity of the project.

There were several questions regarding the type of experience the repository would offer. The Smithsonian was discussed as an example to provide the guest an interactive involvement. This would also include the inclusion of Jacksonville’s confederate statues and similar items. Per Mr. Hand’s inquiry, CP Brosche confirmed that the committee was expected to make funding recommendations that would be necessary to better educate the community about its history. Although the establishment of a new museum would be ideal, the focus must remain on telling the complete story of Jacksonville’s history through African American voices which is best done through partnerships with existing museums. Dr. Simmons-Hutchins suggested that the committee broadens its perspective to eventually apply for national park designation. Thus, federal dollars could assist with the operational cost at a site like old Stanton. Mr. Rahman Johnson encouraged the committee to find places that were currently accessible as a repository. He also suggested a marketing plan to utilize digital tours to expose history and act a source of revenue.

Mr. Lloyd Washington shared that legislation had been filed in Washington, D.C. to designate the home of the Johnson Brothers a national site. He distributed copies of the site plans. The construction is expected to begin in 2019.

In response to Mr. Alton Yates’ question, Dr. Bliss and Council President Brosche commented that a pictorial version of the final timeline could be created. The final discussion related to the importance of sharing all the triumphs and trials of Jacksonville, especially the ignored and neglected history.

Co-Chair Jones recognized Holli Ramsey and Wells Todd to provide public comment.

The next meeting will be April 11, 2018.

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:40 a.m.

The written minutes for this meeting are an overview of the discussion. The audio version of the meeting may be retrieved from the Office of Legislative Services.

Minutes: Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research

04.02.18 Posted 12:00 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