

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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**CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE MEETING MINUTES**

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

**April 10, 2018**

**11:30 a.m.**

**Location:** Suite 425, Conference Room A, City Hall – St. James Building, 117 West Duval Street

**In attendance:** Dr. Tim Gilmore, The Honorable Rodney L. Hurst, Sr., Ju’Coby Pittman

**Also**: Yvonne P. Mitchell – Council Research Division

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

**Meeting Convened**: 11:35 a.m.

The Honorable Rodney Hurst convened the meeting and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. Per Mr. Hurst’s inquiry, Ms. Yvonne Mitchell shared that she received a message from Mr. Jason Gabriel’s office that he was still looking into the request for an opinion on the statue being allowed to remain in Hemming Park. Ms. Mitchell will follow-up with Mr. Gabriel before the next meeting. Mr. Hurst requested that the subcommittee recommend Snyder Memorial Church as an option for a civil rights museum. He provided various details to support the designation which included 1) Snyder Memorial Church was the location of the first biracial committee meetings, and 2) it was used as a safe haven for victims during Ax Handle Saturday.

The committee decided the structure of the next couple of meetings would include a deadline for information, a review of references, and a comprehensive analysis of the timeline. The deadline to submit information is April 24th. A workshop session will be held on May 8th to thoroughly review each item listed on the timeline. References will be added to specific items to further one’s knowledge. There was extensive discussion regarding the determination of whether particular historical data is relevant to “civil rights”. Dr. Gilmore shared that although some of the facts might not be specific to civil rights; they are a part of Jacksonville’s history and must be shared. There are several confederacy references listed in the draft that depict the impingement upon civil rights; however, there is opposition in keeping them in the timeline. Thus, a decision must be made regarding what facts to include.

Per Ms. Ju’Coby Pittman’s request, Mr. Hurst provided an in-depth background about Ax Handle Saturday. Mrs. Pittman commented that the subcommittee should determine the logistics for two separate timelines. She agreed that Task Force members should be engaged on the date range for an abridged version of the timeline. It should be noted that the final draft will be a comprehensive “living” document.

There were several references made about influential people such as Joseph Lee and James Weldon Johnson. There was conflicting information related to which gentleman was the first black lawyer. Thus, additional research is required. Also, there was discussion regarding the various stories associated with the song, Lift Every Voice and Sing.

Everyone was encouraged to review the draft and submit any additional information to Ms. Mitchell.

Public speakers were Holli Rumsey, Tia Keitt, and Mr. Gerald Urso.

The next meeting will be April 24, 2018.

**Meeting adjourned:** 1:21 p.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

 04.20.18 Posted 4:30 p.m.

Tapes: Civil Rights History Timeline Subcommittee Meeting – LSD

 04.10.18

Handouts: Civil Rights History Timeline Subcommittee Meeting

 04.10.18