

**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**

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

**April 11, 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, Brenda Frinks, Dr. Tim Gilmore, Dr. Marvin Grant, Chris Hand, Rhiley Hodges, The Honorable Rodney L. Hurst, Sr., Dr. Brenda Simmons-Hutchins, 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.

Council President Anna Brosche updated the committee on her discussion with Carla Miller, Ethics Director. Ms. Kirby Oberdorfer, Deputy Ethics Director, was present to answer questions. Sunshine Law prohibits members from organizing group tours for the Task Force. Any member that conducts tours as a part of their regular employment is permitted to continue. Also, members are allowed to attend community events and participate on panels; however, they should refrain from discussions between each other to maintain the integrity and transparency of the work by the Task Force. Ms. Oberderfor provided information regarding “cure meetings”, a consideration, to resolve a potential violation of two or more members meeting outside of a noticed meeting. Because many of the members frequently engage within the community, the best practice is to notice upcoming meetings or activities no later than 24 hours and up to seven days. Members do not violate the Sunshine Law simply by being in the same location with another member. The violation occurs when the members engage in discussion together in regards to topics that are or may come before the Task Force. Ms. Oberderfor requested members to contact her if there were any further questions.

Inventory Subcommittee Report

Mr. Rodney Hurst provided a review of the Civil Rights History Timeline Subcommittee meeting. The deadline to submit information for the timeline is April 24th. The committee will conduct a review workshop of the entire draft at the May 8th meeting. Mr. Hurst requested the Task Force members to review the draft and provide feedback. The committee was asked to decide on a definition of what is a civil rights accomplishment. Mr. Hurst reported that the Office of General Counsel is still working on providing a legal opinion on why the Confederate statute remains in Hemming Park. Also, he mentioned the recommendation to utilize Snyder Memorial Church as a civil rights museum.

Dr. Gilmore requested input from the committee about their opinion regarding information (Confederacy, Jim Crow Laws, etc.) related to the impingement of people’s civil rights in the timeline. Dr. Bliss agreed that facts that significantly impacted civil rights should be included. Although he supported the idea, Dr. Bliss shared that Snyder Memorial Church needs massive restoration on the inside.

Mr. Chris Hand commented that the Finance subcommittee will discuss Snyder Memorial at its upcoming meeting. In response to his inquiry, Mr. Hurst stated that the information regarding the first integrated law firm would be discussed at the committee meeting. Mr. Darnell Smith suggested researching other cities that have completed a timeline to determine their practice in deciding on inclusion or exclusion of specific information. Dr. Simmons-Hutchins asked whether the subcommittee had agreed on a working definition of Civil Rights. It was suggested that the subcommittee research Atlanta, Memphis, Montgomery, and Savannah definitions and criteria as a reference in establishing a final interpretation. Ms. Hope McMath offered to assist in gathering the information for the subcommittee. Dr. Gilmore requested members provide background information about an individual submitted for inclusion. Ms. McMath asked to discuss the possible role and vision of the Ritz Theatre as an option for a civil rights museum. Mr. Jones announced that the Repository subcommittee would be meeting soon to discuss possible locations for a museum and executor of the timeline. There was extensive discussion regarding the governance of the Ritz Theatre’s managerial contract and the ability to be classified as a civil rights repository. Ms. Phelts stated that Old Stanton was significant in the African American community and should be considered for restoration funding as a repository.

Marketing Subcommittee Report

Mr. Allegretti stated the committee discussed the importance of presenting the timeline as a tourism opportunity. Members were requested to complete a worksheet with locations of attractions, dining, performances or activities; they would want to engage a visiting family member or friend. Mr. Allegretti explained that packaging an interactive experience was significant in highlighting Jacksonville’s Civil Rights History. The committee received copies of a Civil Rights Trail book published by Visit Jacksonville. Ms. Lisa Ransom provided background information regarding the compilation of the publication. She suggested that the upcoming Neighborhood Summit on April 21st would be an opportunity to obtain information from citizens. In response to Ms. Frinks inquiry, Mr. Rahman Johnson stated that technology must be a significant component of marketing.

Council President Brosche reviewed the assigned subcommittees and their responsibilities moving forward to ensure that the Task Force meets its overall charge within the designated time. Members are encouraged to participate in meetings outside of assigned subcommittee. CP Brosche requested to be involved in communications with the administration to invite speakers for meetings. Dr. Simmons-Hutchins suggested the Finance subcommittee look into the Florida Heritage Council for funding.

Co-Chair Jones recognized Gerald Urso and Ollie Mitchell to provide public comment.

The next meeting will be April 24, 2018.

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:56 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

04.22.18 Posted 9:30 p.m.

Tapes: Task Force on Civil Rights History Meeting – LSD

04.10.18

Handouts: Task Force on Civil Rights History Meeting

04.10.18