

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

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**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, Richard Danford, Brenda Frinks, Dr. Tim Gilmore, Dr. Marvin Grant, Chris Hand, The Honorable Rodney L. Hurst, Sr., Dr. Brenda Simmons-Hutchins, The Honorable Rahman Johnson, John Lumpkin, Marsha Phelts, Marcus Pollard, Adonnica Toler, Lloyd Washington, Alton Yates

**Also**: 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.

Finance Subcommittee Report

Mr. Chris Hand provided a review of the Civil Rights History Finance Subcommittee meeting. He shared that the subcommittee discussed possible funding goals and sources. The direction of the subcommittee depends on the priorities of Task Force. The subcommittee heard presentations from Mr. Bill Joost, Public Works Department, and Mr. Damian Cook, Office of Grants & Compliance. Mr. Hand reported that the $600,000 appropriation for Snyder Memorial Church was designated for interior renovations. It was noted that the administration has potential plans for the church. Mr. Hand shared information about the National Park Services as a funding opportunity along with other sources. There was discussion regarding a national designation should Park Services funding be utilized. There is a benefit it partnering with the National Park Society in seeking grant funding. The subcommittee plans to invite a representative to an upcoming meeting.

Marketing Subcommittee Report

Mr. Tony Allegretti stated the committee discussed the importance of determining the methods to promote the final product presented by the Task Force, and promoting the various activities in the community related to civil rights work. It was suggested to host a community conference as a venue to exchange and market information. Dr. Alan Bliss added that discussions included how to effectively brand Jacksonville’s story and determining a theme to highlight a particular person or location. Task Force members are encouraged to submit the worksheet with places of attractions, dining, performances or activities; they would want to engage a visiting family member or friend. Mr. Allegretti explained that this information would assist in the overall package of an interactive experience of Jacksonville’s Civil Rights History.

Repository Subcommittee Report

Mr. Rahman Johnson reported that the subcommittee recommends that the Civil Rights timeline is housed virtually in the digital space as part of the coj.net website in partnership with the Public Library’s Special Collection section. Also, the subcommittee recommends that artifacts associated with the timeline are housed at the Ritz Theatre. As the repository, the Ritz Theatre will lead those of interest to other historical sites for the interactive experience. Mr. Johnson stated that the subcommittee would convene again to discuss possible costs associated with its current recommendations and forward that information to the Finance subcommittee.

There was an extensive discussion regarding the Ritz Theatre’s contract with SMG and its ability to be used as a repository. Mrs. Ju’Coby Pittman informed that a representative from SMG and the Ritz Theatre Foundation would attend an upcoming meeting. Mr. Hand suggested inviting the city official overseeing the SMG contract to the same meeting. Mr. Johnson explained the importance of having a facility to house artifacts in the short term until work was done in establishing and funding a stand-alone museum. Ms. Adonnica Toler stated that the Ritz Theatre has ample space to prepare and properly store artifacts for installations. She explained that the artifacts held at the Ritz could be categorized as a temporary accession and upon the actual the creation of a Civil Rights Museum. Ms. Hane suggested that the special collection accession could include partnerships with locations such as the Cummer Museum and the MOSH to assist with storage. Dr. Brenda Simmons-Hutchins stated that emphasis must be placed on the term “trail”. The overall goal is to develop a trail which denotes moving pieces. Thus, consideration must be given to the possibilities of the significant facts about specific locations being highlighted on site and the trail continues to the next area.

Mr. Hand requested a strategic priority list as it pertains to creating a new space, utilizing an existing facility, or a digital trail to find potential funding. Dr. Tim Gilmore shared information about software that provides a digital map for a user to access various locations. Mrs. Pittman stated that the short-term win would be the development of the virtual trail with the inventory on hand. She suggested that the committee consider combining meetings to maximize time and resources to ensure the Task Force meets in charge. Mr. Danford shared information regarding a book entitled Lynching in America and requested that references are included in the timeline.

Inventory Subcommittee Report

Mr. Rodney Hurst provided a review of the Civil Rights History Timeline Subcommittee meeting. The committee will begin its comprehensive review of the draft timeline at the May 8th meeting. The committee was asked to decide on a definition of what is a civil rights accomplishment. There was discussion regarding the subcommittee’s debate on the inclusion and exclusion of particularfacts in the timeline. Dr. Gilmore stated that the subcommittee was discussing the creation of a streamlined and more comprehensive timeline. Mr. Jones stated a clear definition was necessary adequately determine what facts are included. He would like to have information from other cities regarding their procedure in establishing a timeline. Also, Mr. Jones stated that the Task Force would have to decide collectively on the specific details in doubt. In response to Mr. Hurst inquiry, Ms. Yvonne Mitchell reported that Mr. Steve Durden, Office of General Counsel, is awaiting information from the Parks Department and will provide the legal opinion on why the Confederate statute remains in Hemming Park at the next subcommittee meeting.

Mrs. Pittman requested that subcommittees consider combining meeting and return with two or three points to focus on. She suggested incorporating additional meetings if needed. The Task Force has four scheduled meetings remaining to produce its recommendations. Based on the meeting, Ms. Hane listed the priorities for the Finance subcommittee as digitalization of timeline, the creation of a trail, and a phased approach to acquiring of a museum. There was discussion regarding the application process and fee to be included in the U.S. Civil Rights Trial. The members agreed that there was a wealth of information to categorize and build Jacksonville’s brand.

The next meeting will be May 8, 2018.

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:37 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

04.29.18 Posted 11:55 p.m.

Tapes: Task Force on Civil Rights History Meeting – LSD

04.25.18