

**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**

**May 23, 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, Brenda Frinks, Dr. Tim Gilmore, Chris Hand, The Honorable Rodney L. Hurst, Sr., The Honorable Rahman Johnson, John Lumpkin, Hope McMath, Marsha Phelts, Monica Smith, Adonnica Toler, Lloyd Washington, Alton Yates

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

See sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

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

The Honorable Warren Jones and Ju’Coby Pittman, Co-Chairs, called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves for the record.

Finance Subcommittee Report

Mr. Chris Hand commented that the subcommittee was focusing on for potential funding for the Task Force priorities. He stated that the placement and digitalization of the timeline with the library; and the utilization of the Ritz Theatre as the artifacts repository would involve internal funding. The subcommittee requested a cost analysis from each entity. The development of an interactive application, participation with the U.S. Civil Rights Trail, and the long-term plan of a museum will require the assistance of external funding. Mr. Hand shared details of a conversation he held with Council Member Lori Boyer regarding the Tourist Development Council. The recommendation is that the Task Force considers a Civil Rights campus or district that connects historic sites. The idea is to join the Ritz Theatre, Lift Every Voice and Sing Park, LaVilla community, and other locations to highlight the rich history to provide a more in-depth educational experience for residents and visitors. Mr. Hand explained that the subcommittee would provide recommendations of the sources of funding available rather than suggesting actual dollar amounts.

There was some discussion regarding the inclusion of a Civil Rights monument in Hemming Park. The Task Force requested that the Office of General Counsel (OGC) provide clarification regarding the legal foundation on the Confederate statute remaining in Hemming Park. It was noted that discussions about the Confederate statute were not a charge of the Task Force. Mr. Rahman Johnson moved that the Task Force send a letter to City Council expressing its request to remove the statute. Brenda Frinks seconded the motion. After discussion, the co-chairs agreed to table the motion until the next meeting that will allow OGC to answers questions regarding the process of deaccession. Mr. Johnson will draft the letter for committee review and further discussion. Ms. Yvonne Mitchell will forward the letter to members.

Marketing Subcommittee Report

Mr. Allegretti stated the committee discussed the importance of convening entities and people to engage and learn. The event would be a showcase and exchange of information. The project would be a major marketing tool for citizens and guests in learning more about Jacksonville’s Civil Rights History. The subcommittee plans to discuss more specifics related to social media and other logistics.

Repository Subcommittee Report

Mr. Johnson provided a summary of the joint subcommittee meeting held on May 21st. He provided a list of phases to reach committee goals. Phase 1 involves the completion of and posting of the timeline to the library’s webpage. The library staff has committed to meeting the June 25th deadline. Phase 2 is the development of an official website and preliminary plans to provide open access to the Civil Rights Trail. Phase 3 includes the creation of an application to accompany the timeline. Phase 4 should begin the process of establishing a permanent repository. Mr. Johnson moved that the Jacksonville Public Library be the main host of the timeline and the Ritz Theatre is the repository for any artifacts received. Mr. Hand seconded the motion. The Task Force unanimously passed the motion. Ms. Adonnica Toler noted that the utilization of a long-term loan agreement was necessary with obtaining donations from the community. The concern is differentiating between donations specific to Civil Rights repository or the African American museum. She will begin drafting the document for review. The subcommittee will move forward with working with the library to effectuate the timeline to the website.

Inventory Subcommittee Report

Mr. Rodney Hurst updated the committee with the upcoming dates to finalize the timeline. A special notice meeting is Tuesday, May 29th from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room A. All interested parties are invited to attend. The final timeline will be presented to the Task Force on June 13th. Therefore, the subcommittee requested a special meeting of the Task Force on June 20th to conduct the final vote.

Mr. Wells Todd and The Honorable Eric Smith were recognized for public comment. Mr. Todd thanks the committee for their work and commitment. Mr. Smith suggested the Task Force request that TDC allocate funds, in this fiscal year, for Civil Rights efforts.

The next Task Force meeting is June 13, 2018.

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

The written minutes of 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

05.25.18 Posted 7:00 p.m.

Tapes: Task Force on Civil Rights History Meeting – LSD

05.23.18