TASK FORCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY

Agenda

Wednesday, June 13, 2018
10:00 AM
Lynwood Roberts Room 1st Floor, City Hall

The Honorable Warren Jones, Co-Chair
Ju'Coby Pitman, Co-Chair
Tony Allegretti
Dr. Alan Bliss
Dr. Richard Danford
Brenda Frinks
Dr. Tim Gilmore
Dr. Marvin Grant
Chris Hand
Maria Haynes
Rhiley Hodges
The Honorable Rodney L. Hurst, Sr.
Dr. Brenda Simmons-Hutchins

Tape No. __________________________

Jeff Clements, Chief of Research Division
Research Assistant: Yvonne P. Mitchell

The Honorable Rahman Johnson
John Lumpkin
Eric Mann
Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr.
Hope McMath
Marsha Phelts
Marcus Pollard
Isaiah Runlin
Darnell Smith
Monica Smith
Adonna L. Toiler
Lloyd Washington
Alton Yates

Meeting Convened:

Meeting Adjourned:

Introductions

Discussions
  • Visit Florida Report (U.S. Heritage Trail) – Monica Smith
  • OGC memo regarding the Confederate Statue – Steve Durden
  • Loan agreement for artifacts – Steve Durden
  • Lift Every Voice and Sing Park – Lloyd Washington
  • Frederick Douglas Marker (St. Augustine) – Dr. Tim Gilmore
  • Draft recommendation letter to City Council – Rahman Johnson
  • CP-Designate Bowman’s WJCT interview regarding Task Force

Updates:
  • Finance Subcommittee Report
  • Marketing Subcommittee Report
  • Repository Subcommittee Report
  • Inventory Subcommittee Report

Public Comment

Announcements

Adjournment

The final Task Force meeting will be held Wednesday, June 20, 2018.
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Dear Members of Council,

Since 1898, downtown Jacksonville has been home to a 62-foot monument that commemorates the Confederate forces role in the United States Civil War. Though not formally documented, many residents of Jacksonville believe that the reason for the monument’s placement was for it to serve as a reminder to former slaves and their descendants of their ‘place in society’.

Over time the monument has seen our city make progress, heard speeches from major national political figures, seen violent civil right struggles and today is home to Jacksonville’s City Government and a bustling art district.

One consistent theme that we have learned from our work in recording Civil Rights History, is that a great deal of people would appreciate a relocation of the statue.

Like other landmarks of our city, the statue is and will always be a part of Jacksonville. We do not believe that people want to see the statue destroyed nor history forgotten. We do believe however, that the monument should be enshrined in a place that is more befitting for an artifact of the time in which it was erected.

Our work on this Task Force has revealed that there are many in Jacksonville who feel that the statue holding a place of reverence in the center of the city, sends a message of divisiveness to the world. As we do the work of commemorating and providing vehicles to learn from Jacksonville’s Civil Rights past we must also find ways to keep discursive instruments from derailing our path to a brighter more inclusive future.

By a majority vote, this Task Force makes recommendation that the Jacksonville City Council hold public meetings to determine the future of the statue and where it should be located. We believe that opening this public dialogue will provide a cross section of our community the opportunity to be a part of this process.

Thank you in advance for considering our recommendation.

With kind regards,

Members of the Jacksonville Civil Rights Task Force

Members et al.
Based on recommendations from other subcommittees and general task force discussion, the Finance Committee has considered possible funding sources for five goals.

1. Initial Placement of Timeline on City of Jacksonville Website (Limited Funding Required)
2. Utilization of the Ritz Theatre as a repository of physical artifacts (Repository SC estimate: $75,000)
3. Development of a digital repository including, but not limited to, website and application development, curation, and cultivation (Repository SC estimate: $175,000)
4. Participation in the U.S. Civil Rights Trail (Cost TBD)
5. Establishment of a Jacksonville Civil Rights District/Trail (Cost TBD)
   - Visible Markers at Trail Locations
   - Possible Creation of La Villa “Campus” (e.g., Ritz, Lift Ev’ry Voice & Sing Park, Brewster, Houses, Sax Seafood)
   - Other Marketing Strategies and Initiatives

The Finance Subcommittee is grateful to City of Jacksonville elected officials (such as former Council President Lori Boyer) and various employees — Bill Joyce from the Public Works Department, Damian Cook from the Office of Grants and Contract Compliance, Daryl Joseph from the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department, and Annette Hastings from the Tourist Development Council — for sharing their expertise on possible funding sources. As a result of those insights, the subcommittee makes the following specific recommendations:

I. UTILIZE DUVAL COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (TDC) FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Finance Subcommittee recommends that the City of Jacksonville invest in highlighting civil rights history through the Duval County Tourist Development Council (TDC). As explained at www.coj.net/city-council/tourist-development-council.aspx, “The Duval County Tourist Development Council (TDC) is the governing body that oversees the collection and distribution of the local-option tourist development tax authorized to counties by Florida Statutes.”

More specifically, “Jacksonville currently levies a six percent tourist development tax on transient accommodations in the city. In addition to its many other duties, the TDC utilizes a portion of this tax to fund tourism promotions and events that will generate a substantial number of visitors to Jacksonville, the Beaches and Baldwin.” For the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, the TDC has received approximately $8.2 million in revenue. Nearly $4.7 million was directed to Visit Jacksonville for the tourist bureau, marketing, and convention promotion components of the plan.

In Ordinance Code Section 666.108, the City of Jacksonville adopted a tourist development plan which guides the TDC. The plan has seven components, several of which are compatible with task force goals:

- Marketing of existing tourist-oriented facilities, attractions, activities and events (Visit Jacksonville)
- Development and planning of additional tourist facilities and attractions in the City of Jacksonville
- Acquisition of and improvements to certain publicly owned facilities or certain facilities publicly owned and operated or owned and operated by a not for profit and open to the public

Each of the plan components is funded through an annual allocation established in the Ordinance Code. Several components may have TDC funding available to assist with task force goals.

- The TDC has a “Development and Planning Account” which may be used for “[i]dentification of potential or undeveloped tourist attractions, (other than a convention center), in the City which will include a study to determine
the existence, location, and potential tourist benefit to the City of such attractions, and the beginning of a short range plan to develop such of these attractions as may indicate an economically feasible benefit....” As of January 31, 2018, this account had a budgetary balance of $150,000.00.

- The TDC “Development Account” may be “used to acquire, construct, extend, enlarge, remodel or improve publicly owned convention centers, coliseums (e.g., arena) or auditoriums (e.g., performing arts center), or aquariums or museums that are publicly owned and operated or owned and operated by a not for profit organization.” As of January 31, 2018, the balance in this account was $2,750,000.

- The TDC maintains a Contingency account “to fund unforeseen opportunities of major significance to tourism in the City. Activities and projects funded from this account shall be approved by the City Council.” As of January 31, 2018, the balance in this account was $1,563,000.00.

II. PURSUE PUBLIC GRANT FUNDING

The subcommittee recommends that the City of Jacksonville pursue a variety of grant funding sources to support the above-referenced goals. These sources should include, but are not limited to, the following opportunities:

- **National Parks Service**

  **African American Civil Rights Grants:** “The African American Civil Rights Grant Program (Civil Rights Grants) documents, interprets, and preserves sites and stories related to the African American struggle to gain equal rights as citizens in the 20th Century... This competitive grant program provides grants to states, tribes, local governments (including Certified Local Governments), and nonprofits. Non-federal matching share is not required, but preference will be given to applications that show community commitment through non-federal match and partnership collaboration.”

  **Save America’s Treasures Grants:** “The Federal Save America’s Treasures grants program began in 1999 and helps preserve nationally significant historic properties and collections that convey our nation’s rich heritage to future generations.”

  **Underrepresented Community Grants:** “This grant program supports the survey, inventory, and designation of historic properties that are associated with communities currently underrepresented in the National Register of Historic Places and among National Historic Landmarks. All funded projects must result in the submission of a new nomination to the National Register of Historic Places or National Historic Landmark program, or an amendment to an existing National Register or National Historic Landmark nomination to include underrepresented communities.”

- **Institute of Museum and Library Services**

  **Museum Grants for African American History and Culture** These grants “support projects that improve the operations, care of collections, and development of professional management at African American museums. Eligible applicants include museums with a primary purpose and focus on African American life, art, history, and/or culture.”

  - **Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources**

    **Small Matching Grants:** “The purpose of this program is to provide funding, in the form of grants, to assist local, regional and state-wide efforts to preserve significant historic and archaeological resources, and to promote knowledge and appreciation of the history of Florida. Types of historic preservation projects that can be funded include:

    - “Survey projects that identify, document, and evaluate historic or archaeological resources within historic or archaeological districts or areas being investigated for the potential of becoming historic districts or zones, or
updated previous surveys (awards up to $50,000);

- “Planning projects to prepare historic structures report, condition assessment, architectural drawings, predictive modeling, preparation of preservation or management plans, design or preservation guidelines and such, necessary to guide the long term preservation of a historic resource or historic district (awards up to $50,000);

- “National Register Nomination projects that prepare a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for an individual Historic Property or a nomination for a historic or archaeological district, or a thematic or multiple resource group nomination (awards up to $50,000);

- “Education and Publication projects aimed at increasing public understanding and awareness of the importance of historical and archaeological resources and their preservation, either in general or for specific sites, properties, or collections. This may include proposals such as walking tours brochures, education material for school children, interpretive signage, videos illustrating historic preservation principles, and educational apps related to the history of Florida’s historical and archaeological resources (awards up to $50,000);

Special Category Grants: “Types of historic preservation projects that can be funded include:

- “Development projects with the mission of Preservation, Restoration, Rehabilitation, or Reconstruction of historic properties regularly open to the public, and site-specific planning required for these activities such as structural or condition assessment reports.

- “Acquisition projects geared at acquiring a single Historic Property or archaeological site, or group of Historic Properties or archaeological sites, in which all the resources have the same owner. For archaeological sites, an exception to the single owner provision may be made if the archaeological site extends on land that is contiguous, but owned by different property owners.”

III. ESTABLISH A ROBUST PRIVATE GIVING PROGRAM

The overall goals of this task force cannot be achieved through the investment of public dollars alone. As with most endeavors, long-term success depends on strong public-private partnerships. To that end, the Finance Subcommittee recommends the City of Jacksonville and other community stakeholders work closely with local, state, and national philanthropic and non-profit communities to provide opportunities for organizational and individual investment in preserving/promoting Jacksonville’s civil rights history. This work could include:

- Fostering partnerships with existing museums to help tell the Jacksonville civil rights story;

- Seeking non-governmental support from foundations and other private sources;

- Engaging community funders (e.g., Community Foundation of Northeast Florida);

- Encouraging Individual giving, including through the pursuit of innovative civic crowdfunding initiatives;

- Exploring appropriate sponsorship opportunities for civil rights trail locations, markers, and signage
Please read the reverse side for instructions on speaking before the City Council.

No speaker may give or transfer their time to another person.

Speaking time is limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

Comments from the public: Subject

[ ] I support
[ ] I oppose

Public participation: Bill number

[ ] I support
[ ] I oppose

Public hearing: Bill number

I do not wish to speak

Signature:

[ ] Please print

Name: 

City: Atlantic Beach
Address: 401 22nd Ave
Phone: 912-972-9135
Date: 3/18/18

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