



African American Equity Restoration Task Force

Community Empowerment

Regular Meeting

<http://knoxvilletn.gov>

~ Minutes ~

Monday, April 10, 2023

5:00 PM

Cansler Family YMCA

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER

Tanisha Fitzgerald-Baker called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Dave Miller, Deb Porter, Stanley Taylor, Tanisha Fitzgerald-Baker, Matthew Best, Bill Lyons, Gwen McKenzie

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

From Monday, March 13, 2023

Motion to approve (Miller), second (Best), passed on unanimous voice call vote.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EXTRAORDINARY MATTERS

Fitzgerald-Baker: Saturday, May 20th (from 9 a.m. to noon) is the annual E. Knoxville Clean-Up. She encouraged people to attend and help get the word out. In the past, around 400 people have participated including City and Fire officials. There are dumpsters in about 10 different locations, and attendees can choose an area around that dumpster to focus on. She will send a flyer.

Best: The Change Center is having a fundraiser, "Evening of the Arts," from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. on May 20th.

5. STAFF REPORT

Christina Magrans-Tillery: A draft contract for the fiscal partner is being finalized and will be sent out soon so that the Executive Committee can review it. Tiffani and Christina are checking on the status of the disparity study and will provide an update on this as well.

Tiffani Toombs: In partnership with Atlanta Federal Bank, she is working on a "Lay of the Land" analysis. A meeting is coming up to discuss a timeline, and she will keep the Task Force updated on this. See the handout provided.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Executive

Toombs noted that the Task Force had a strategy session around this time last year to discuss what spaces the Task Force can create change in. They talked about locations, possible facilitators, etc. Also, they emphasized that they are here to find solutions to help move the work forward and brainstormed ideas in that capacity. They also talked about getting a lay of the land for other organizations and their equity framework, and how to keep them accountable while filling in gaps.

b. Community Engagement

Best gave the report. The Open House event is tomorrow, April 11th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We have questions, sticky notes for responses, and the handouts to describe the Task Force work. Task Force members should be there at 4:30 p.m. to help set up the table. If it goes well, he urged the Task Force to consider duplicating it at other events.

c. Investment

No members were present to give an update. Toombs noted that she provided 3 outcomes we are looking to invest in.

7. PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Equity Partnership Conversation

Speakers presented. They meet every other week and have been studying racism, equity, responses to historic marginalization, etc. for 4 years. A suggestion was that the Task Force could approach organizations like KUB, Clayton Homes, and local banks to partner and coordinate efforts to advance the interests of minorities. In the past, projects like HomeSource emerged from those partnerships and coordinated efforts. Institutions should look internally to see where they have fallen short on diversity efforts.

Discussion: Fitzgerald-Baker, Best, McKenzie, Miller.

Community Safety Director LaKenya Middlebrook noted that a strategic meeting would be helpful to re-center the group's work. Now that there is a vision, there needs to be an action plan with metrics to achieve the vision.

Fitzgerald-Baker called for a motion to commit to planning a strategy session with a facilitator and to getting a sample agenda, topics, and tactical steps/solutions to specifically address issues. Motion was made by Miller, second by Taylor, and passed on unanimous voice vote.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

Nobody had signed up to speak.

Fitzgerald-Baker asked if Emerald Youth wanted to provide any updates. Emerald representative noted that there was a youth meeting last week at The Change Center, which was successful with about 50 people there. They discussed renting out a location on Friday nights after ball games, which is a time of day when youth tend to get into trouble. They will send out some formal numbers.

Best: Juneteenth is coming up, and he asked if the Task Force wants to have some presence at commemorative events (similar to a table that will be at

tomorrow's Open House community event). Porter noted that the MLK Commission will have a presence during the events on 6/19, when there will be a noon parade with a community gathering to follow at Harding Park. She noted that at the community gathering, a table could be set up. There will also be an event at the Botanical Garden from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on 6/18. More information will be provided in the future.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Fitzgerald-Baker concluded the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 8th at 5:00pm at Pellissippi State Community College-Magnolia Campus