



African American Equity Restoration Task Force

Community Empowerment

Regular Meeting

<http://knoxvilletn.gov>

~ Agenda ~

Monday, January 9, 2023

5:00 PM

Pellissippi State Magnolia Campus

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting began at 5:07 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

- In attendance: Underwood, Porter, Hardin, Fitzgerald-Baker, McKenzie, Lyons, Taylor, Best, Miller, Olds (5:45 p.m.)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Monday, November 14, 2022 – Motion to Approve (Lyons, 2nd McKenzie) – passed on unanimous voice vote

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EXTRAORDINARY MATTERS

- Porter – reminded people about the MLK Celebration; passed out “King Celebration 2023” Cards with events listed; a couple of events are not listed; all events are free except for the luncheon, which is sold out.

5. STAFF REPORT

- a. Report from the National League of Cities Conference – given by Tiffani Toombs
 - Tiffani Toombs, Pamela Cotham, Cheryl Ball, Deidra Harper went to Atlanta earlier this month; conference had workforce development and a small business development sections to help promote economic initiatives and community engagement; Toombs drew attention to her report in the packet.
- b. Grant Report – given by Tiffani Toombs
 - We applied for NLC in amount of \$30,000; increase engagement of MBE’s in the City; goals are to bring more contracts with black/brown businesses to, and promote more engagement with, the City
 - Toombs drafted a letter to the Dolly Parton Foundation after \$100M was donated by Jeff Bezos; still under review with the City

- Toombs emailed Felix Harris with Urban League so that we could figure out ways to support them if they apply for any grants; waiting to hear back
- Update on the grant that went before Council, Cultural & Community Resilience Grant and partnership with the Beck Cultural Center: given the short timeframe, City decided that it would be better to build out the grant more. Toombs said that this is one of Biden's major pillars, so there will be more chances to apply for similar funding in the future.
- Also reached out to Knoxville Leadership Foundation; the contact said she would present the possibility of applying for a grant to a committee before they decided whether to move forward in partnership with the City
- Jordan Jameson (City intern, not present) – Toombs and she have been researching grants and provided a report in the packet. Goal is to provide a toolkit for grant applications.
- Financial Empowerment Center – City decided to pause on this; for questions, contact Erin Gill
- Questions/Discussions
 - Miller, Porter, Best, Fitzgerald-Baker

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Fitzgerald Baker: asked for each Committee's current task, timeline for it, and to make sure members have the next meeting on their calendar (1st Monday of every month at Change Center, so the next ones are 2/06/23)
 - Also discussed some material to distribute about the TF to explain that what the TF does and that this is not a hand-out, it's restoration to what should have been there historically; call for designing something and maybe for this to fall under the Community Engagement Committee or a subcommittee; a workshop might be helpful at a special called meeting
- Reports from individual committees will be given after February Committee meetings
 - a. Executive
 - b. Community Engagement
 - c. Investment

7. PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Voting for Fiscal Agent
 - Fitzgerald-Baker: vote is between Urban League and United Way; called for a Motion regarding who will serve as fiscal agent
 - Hardin: Motion to Accept Urban League as fiscal agent; 2nd by McKenzie
 - Discussion: McKenzie, Porter, Lyons,
 - Presentation: Lomax – requested that Urban League's name be withdrawn from consideration.
 - Motion to Withdraw Motion – Hardin, 2nd McKenzie – unanimous voice vote, passed

- Best: Motion to Accept United Way as fiscal agent; 2nd by Taylor – unanimous voice vote passed (Miller recused)
- b. Emerald Youth Facility Support
- McKenzie: Emerald Youth wants to invest money in community; this will be a conversation for the future, once EY has gotten the feedback needed; may also be helpful to invite representatives from EY and similar groups to come talk to the TF and to attend TF meetings when feasible
 - Discussion: Underwood, McKenzie, Best, Fitzgerald-Baker
- c. Black History Month Presence
- Fitzgerald-Baker (see part d first). Given that this event probably won't happen in February, want to have some presence.
 - Ideas: partnering with the Beck Center, Fitzgerald-Baker's show, WJBE, etc.
 - Communications Workshop will produce language to use (for the card too)
 - LaKenya Middlebrook: Black Issues Conference is also a possibility
 - Underwood: The CROWN Act events on 13, 14, and 16th
 - Discussion: Hardin, Olds, Underwood, Porter
 - Charges to the TF:
 - If TF members know of any events, pass along to Toombs so that members can go to them and educate public/entities about the TF
 - Get the communications workshop in early February so that something can be drafted to be passed out at these events; Toombs to look at the website, resolution, etc. to design something quick as a temporary document and as a starting point
- d. Community Engagement Event
- Fitzgerald-Baker: TF needs an action-based list to check off – media, logistics, etc. Originally scheduled for 2/19, which probably cannot happen due to the short timeline.
 - TF agreed that this event will not happen this February
 - Charge to Community Engagement Committee: create the task list at the 2/06 meeting

8. PUBLIC FORUM

Nobody signed up for public forum

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion passed on unanimous voice vote

Next Meeting: February 13 at 5:00pm at TBD

- **Note: all TF meetings will be here, at Pellissippi Magnolia, in the future unless otherwise agenda**