

African American Equity Restoration Task Force
March 25, 2022
Beck Cultural Exchange Center
7:30am

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:33AM by Charles Lomax

ROLL CALL

Present: B. Hardin; B. Lyons; G. McKenzie; D. Miller; R. Olum; D. Porter;
S. Taylor; T. Fitzgerald-Baker;

Excused – G. Underwood

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes – Mr. Taylor, second by Dr. Lyons.
Minutes approved – motion passed unanimously

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EXTRAORDINARY MATTERS

4. No announcements to report by Charles Lomax

STAFF REPORT

a. – C. Lomax – Seeking a new position to help staff the task force as a grant writer. Budget amendment. City council approved as a second reading from the council (3/22). Can pursue the position because of the budget amendment. The task force will get the position in their email. Grants Specialist (see attached). Lomax Read job description. Seeking someone with a 4-year degree. This is a direct appointment from the Mayor. One of the task force members to be a part of the interview process (T. Fitzgerald Baker agreed to serve during the interview process).

The position will find ways to administer funds with the Task Force.

Discussion regarding the position by Fitzgerald-Baker, Hardin, Taylor, Porter, and McKenzie (Discussion made available if needed)

5b. Cities of Financial Empowerment

C.Lomax – United Way, KAUL, and the City (Financial Empowerment Centers) free financial counseling to the city residents. Phase one of a three phase process. One of three cities to come to Knoxville. A number of different cities for one of the centers was reviewed. Must have an advisory group. Where to set up and to house and generate funds and \$ (temporary group – 3 meetings for the Advisory Group). One member of the Task Force to be a part of the Advisory Group

Speakers: S. Taylor

Spoke to Mayor Jacobs. Asked Mayor Jacobs for Access to the public libraries for the Financial Empowerment Center for the counselor and person to meet.

Is there a volunteer for the advisory group – Brandon will volunteer – for a virtual meeting; Gwen McKenzie to be a part as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

Framework Presentation

D. Miller – Presented a report for the framework poverty research data. He provided a handout for discussion during the meeting (see attached)

Speakers: Fitzgerald-Baker, Lyons, McKenzie, Hardin, and Porter
(Comments Available – if needed)

b. Taskforce Retreat

Charles Lomax – Morning half of the day – Identified a couple of places with a continental breakfast.

1. Refining the framework , term limits, and scheduling and identifying committees, and conversation regarding the fiscal sponsor

Two committees to be established

Executive Committee
Public Engagement Committee – could be media

Conversation regarding committees and how we decide to move

Discussion Speakers: - Porter, Fitzgerald-Baker, McKenzie and Miller

April 26, 27, and 28th of April for our next meeting. Use one of the dates for the retreat. **Use doodle to come up with a date. April 28th is out.**

PUBLIC FORUM

No Speakers

ADJOURNEMENT

Dave miller moved to adjoiurned, seconded by Gwen McKenzie at 8:30am.

NEXT MEETING: DATE TBD AT 5PM AT THE BECK CULTURAL CENTER

Minutes/Notes Submitted by Deborah Porter

