

MINUTES
Constituency and Community Outreach
Subcommittee – Empowerment of Marginalized Communities
Mayor Donna Deegan Transition

Meeting 5

Date: August 8, 2023

Location: Jewish Family & Community Services, 8540 Baymeadows Rd, Jacksonville 32256

Welcome:

Co-Chairs: Whitney Meyer and Melanie Patz called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

In Attendance:

Chair: Parvez Ahmed; Madison Hilt; Janis Fleet; Rudy Jamison

Via TEAMS: Basma Alawee, Cindy Watson, Wei Zhou, Andrea Reyes, Anny Leon, Omega Nixon, Kiaria Nixon; Rosemary McCoy and Rev. Reginald Gundy

Check in on Current Assignments:

Co-Chairs are just checking in to see if there are any “hurdles.”

- Madison Hilt – moving forward. Will need to reschedule meeting with Garland Scott; will be attending the ICare Meeting on August 10, 2023, and will get information needed for report.
- Still developing a list of COJ Family-Style restrooms; may need to contact Parks and Recreation and request an inventory; then use volunteers to spot-check locations.
- “Know Your Neighbor” recommendation has been moved to the Subcommittee on Interfaith Relations; it is to be part of The Longest Table.
- Omega Allen – looking at the most recent JSEB Diversity Disparity Study. Looking to make recommendations -
 - Consider if City should hire a consultant and look at “best practices.”
 - will still need people with local knowledge.
 - review teams are necessary, but must be well-balanced, inside and outside knowledge.
 - The city has always used outside consultants, unable to ascertain why none of the recommendations have been implemented.
- Kiaria Nixon – still gathering information:
 - Mayor’s Youth at Work (2018), 40 employers worked with 415 young men and women to offer training, mentorship and experiences that build skills and work ethic.
 - Funding is sent to Kids Hope Alliance (Jennifer Blalock / John Everett)
 - Goodwill JAX is now coordinating the program and accommodates roughly 100 students.
 - Melanie Patz can connect Kiaria Nixon with John Everett for more updated information.
 - Received information on Ax Handle Saturday
 - Mayor Deegan plans to attend the Rodney Hurst Commemoration of Ax Handle Saturday – August 27 at the Jesse Ball duPont Center, 4:30 p.m.
 - Checking into getting a commemorative display in the City Hall Atrium

- Announcement – Rudolph (Rudy) Jamison was appointed Executive Director, JHRC (Jacksonville Human Rights Commission), effective 8/7/2023.
 - See Jimmy Midyette regarding specific recommendations for JHRC.
- All reports are due by August 15 to the Sub-Committee; Whitney Meyer will develop one report to submit to the Full Committee Chair by August 22, 2023, she will format the subcommittee’s recommendations.
- Rev. Gundy – has a list of Parks experiencing maintenance issues. He will forward to Chair Ahmed, who will share with Co-Chairs.
 - Sent another recommendation to the Non-Profit and Higher Education Revitalization Subcommittee – he will also forward to the Co-Chairs
 - Developing recommendation for the Cure Violence Program – will have recommendations by Thursday to the Co-Chairs
- Janis Fleet – Offered additional recommendations:
 - Lien Forgiveness for vacant and rundown properties; the City places code enforcement liens to ensure remediation of code violations, but when owners can’t pay, it reaches a point where owners are forced to abandon their property. Se feels this is because people don’t understand how government works.
 - The Neighborhood Department offers CommUniVersity which introduces people to how government functions and should be explored as a “best practices” model.
 - Land Use and Zoning is another area where people don’t know how to get involved and by the time projects or construction is announced, it is often too late for the community to voice their opinion.
 - She feels that it is important to get people involved at the neighborhood level. People in marginalized communities don’t know how to get involved and they don’t get information.
- Rosemary McCoy – has submitted her recommendations; she did not have a lot of details for the budget.
 - Used Chicago as a model for “best practice” for Youth Civic Education Engagement. (A Youth Advisory Council does not exist)
- Miscellany:
 - No specific page length is required for the final report.
 - Rosemary McCoy will amend and re-submit her report and resubmit.
 - Kiaria Nixon is working on youth employment and will write-up separately.
 - JSEB recommendations will move under Diversity and inclusion, to be more effective.
 - No need to physically meet August 8 – Meeting will be cancelled, our next meeting will be August 22, 2023, at Jewish Family & Community Services at 5:00 p.m.
- Meeting Adjourned: 6:15 p.m.