

Champaign County Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF)  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 23, 2017  
6:30 pm  
Urbana Free Public Library

**I. Call to Order**

Sam Byndom called the meeting order at 6:44pm.

**II. Roll Call**

*Members Present:* S. Balgoyen, S. Byndom, E. Dee, A. Felty, D. Harber, R. Hughes, A. James, E. Patt, C. Randolph, H. Ross, S. Silver.

*Members Absent:* M. Ar-Raheem, L. Branham, A. Evans, A. Shelton, D. Turner, G. Walter.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Esther moved to approve agenda. David seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Esther moved to approve the minutes. David seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**V. Presentations**

*Subcommittee Updates*

Carolyn discussed the database that the Community Engagement Subcommittee is working on. She shared an update on the status of the database – the group is working with other groups to plan how the database can live beyond the task force. It is a mixed method database – both quantitative and qualitative data. She recommended coming to the data workshop on April 1<sup>st</sup> to ask students about specific questions. Ryan will send information about the workshop to the group. Carolyn also discussed a potential partnership with the Story Corps organization to help facilitate interviews of community members. They have sent us a contract that would have to be signed by an organization; the subcommittee is considering collaborating with a community organization to do this. The group discussed what type of individuals could be invited to share stories.

Carolyn also updated the group on the subcommittees feelings regarding timeline of the RJTF. The group suggested doing final drafts of a report by July, sharing it with the public in August, revising it in September, and finalizing and sharing it in October. David shared that each subcommittee would share their section of the report with the task force in August. The subcommittee is suggesting a budget for the community events in August.

Ryan updated the group about the Police Practices subcommittee. The subcommittee has set up a meeting with the Director of the Police Training Institute. The group is doing basic research into a variety of areas, and it will review the Urbana Traffic Stop Data Task Force Report.

Susan updated the group about the Legal Processes Subcommittee. Demario is looking into fees and fines, Lynn has written a draft section, and Esther has been looking at Failure to Appear and Driving on a Suspended License. They have not decided yet what their needed timeline is. They have also discussed diversion programs and where they fall, including whether they would have an impact on racial disparities. The task force discussed this issue and how to make diversion programs that are racially equitable. Sara asked the subcommittee about their thoughts on the timeline proposed by the Community Engagement Subcommittee. The task force discussed potential timelines, including proposed recommendations by May (this was not finalized).

Sara asked for input on the structure of the task force meetings. Setting limits on subcommittee updates was recommended.

Sara's Juvenile Justice Subcommittee has not met recently but they do have three bullet point recommendations proposed. They do not have access to much data surrounding juvenile justice.

Amy's Structural Subcommittee does not have any updates.

The next Champaign County Committee of the Whole meeting is April 11<sup>th</sup>. The next CC Board meeting is Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. The group will be asking for a budget at the next C.O.W. meeting. Sam will work on drafting the request for budget and a time extension to be presented to the County Board on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **VI. New Business**

Henry discussed an update regarding local organizations who could potentially help with discrimination legal cases. He also discussed his recommendations for community support for the African American community.

David updated the group on the discussions at the last meeting regarding mug shots. David wants to talk with the Sheriff's Office regarding the use of mug shots. The idea is to discuss the issue with the Sheriff and see how he would like to handle it since removing mug shot data will likely be a recommendation of the task force.

#### **VII. Task Force Member Comments/Member Updates**

Sara shared that the Champaign Bar Association forwarded the letter requesting ideas about reducing racial disparity to its members but will no longer be sending communication from the task force.

#### **VIII. Public Participation**

*There was no public participation.*

#### **IX. Subcommittee Meetings**

This item was tabled.

#### **X. Adjournment**

David moved to adjourn.