

Champaign County Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 11, 2017
6:30 pm

I. Call to Order

Sam Byndom called the meeting to order at 6:39pm.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: S. Balgoyen, L. Branham, S. Byndom, A. Felty, R. Hughes, D. Harber, S. Lerner, E. Patt, C. Randolph, H. Ross, S. Silver, G. Walter.

Members Absent: M. Ar-Raheem, E. Dee, A. Evans, A. James, A. Shelton, D. Turner.

III. Approval of Agenda

Esther Patt moved to approve agenda. Sara Balgoyen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Susan Silver moved to approve the minutes with the correction that Susan Silver was present, not absent at the last meeting. Esther seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Esther moved to reconsider the minutes because of two missing member names. Amy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Amy moved to amend the minutes the add Henry Ross and Demario Turner as *absent* at the last meeting and remove Artice from the *absent* section. Gerry seconded the motion. The motion carried. (6:47pm)

V. Public Participation

There were no public comments at the time of this agenda item.

VI. Task Force Member Comments/Updates

A) Story Corps Project

Carolyn updated the group on the potential partnership with an outside organization to sign a contract with the NPR Story Corps project in order to collect narratives on the criminal justice system. Sam suggested that the IMC make the partnership and then share the data with the task force.

B) Subcommittee Updates

Henry updated the group on his case. He is beginning deposition this month.

Amy is working on her draft and invited the group to her house to review her draft.

Carolyn updated the group about the McKinney Social Justice Award. People were very interested in the work of the task force. Carolyn shared what the task force has done so far at the event.

Esther updated the task force on the Legal Processes Subcommittee. They have a draft section and will have additional writing soon also.

Sara said that the Juvenile Justice group has not drafted recommendations yet, but she will be drafting a section soon.

Gerry updated the group on the Community Engagement Subcommittee and said that the group is working on recommendations. He also noted that a member of the public who is working on a startup for increasing access to legal services attended the last subcommittee meeting.

Ryan updated the group on the Police Practices subcommittee.

C) Report and Task Force Timeline Review

Sara told the group that the task force needs to be re-appointed by the County Board because the task force may have formally expired at the end of April. The County Board needs to be told which task force members will be re-appointed and how long the appointment should be. The group asked about the criteria for a member not being re-appointed. It was decided that if someone has not been present for four months, then they are not participating. It was also noted that those members who fall in this category have been contacted about their absence.

The group then talked about timeline, including how long an extension should last and what the goals for each month would be. There was discussion about when the County Board reviews its budget. Sara asked that we commit to an earlier deadline for the report in order to get it to the County Board for budget purposes but also to consider the other ways in which we can go further than a report delivered to the County Board. Lynn suggested setting a hard deadline. Carolyn brought up the consideration of changing the format of the task force meetings. The County Board calendar shows legislative hearings at the end of August (28, 29, 30) and public budget meetings at the end of September (26, 28). Esther suggested getting a report together by the end of July and then approving it at task force meetings in August. The task force then discussed the process for giving feedback and approving sections. Subcommittees will review the remaining five meetings and decide when they could prepare draft sections to be reviewed by the entire task force.

On May 25, the Structural Subcommittee and part of the Legal Processes group will present drafts at the next section. The task force needs to ask for meeting space through

the extension request. Sam will ask the County Board for an extension through October, meeting space through October, and appointments of members who have been attending meetings. The group also discussed whether or not to include a section on implicit bias and what the structure of the report and its approach to racial justice and racial disparities should be.

VII. New Business

Financial Release Conditions section

Lynn explained the revisions made to the Financial Release Conditions section since the task force last met, which were shared with the task force prior to this meeting. There was discussion about the need to formal approve a section after it has been presented, commented on, and revised.

Ryan moved to approve the proposed Financial Release Conditions section with the understanding that the section may be revised before its inclusion in the final Racial Justice Task Force Report and that reports' final approval. Esther seconded the motion. The motion carried.

VIII. Presentations

There were no presentations.

IX. Subcommittee Meetings

X. Adjournment

Gerry moved to approve.