

Champaign County Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 14, 2017
6:30 pm

I. Call to Order

Sara Balgoyen called the meeting to order at 6:34pm. Nine members were present at this time.

Ellen arrived at 6:40pm. Maryam and Scott arrived at 7:00pm.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: M. Ar-Raheem, S. Balgoyen, L. Branham, S. Byndom, E. Dee, A. Felty, R. Hughes, A. James, S. Lerner, E. Patt, D. Turner, G. Walter.

Members Absent: C. Randolph, H. Ross, S. Silver.

III. Approval of Agenda

Gerry Walter moved to approve agenda. Sam Byndom seconded. The motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Gerald Walter moved to approve the minutes. Sam Byndom seconded the motion. Artice presented a friendly amendment to fix a typo “her” to “here”. Gerry and Sam accepted the friendly amendment. The motion carried.

V. Public Participation

There were no public comments at this time.

VI. Presentations

No presentations.

VII. New Business

Vote on Final Drafts from Subcommittees

Housing

Esther made note of one change to the wording of the first recommendation which Carolyn suggested. Lynn suggested that the working group find use of the term ex-offenders in the report and change it to something different.

Ryan moved to approve the Housing section. Sam seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Community Voices

Esther explained how she pulled out recommendations which came from interviewees. She avoided re-writing language that was from interviews. Amy said she thought Esther did a good job pulling out the essence of the section. Amy said Henry and she would ask that the full report

be included as an appendix or an extra. Gerry noted how these recommendations are not directed at the County Board. Amy explained the context of the recommendations, and Gerry suggested that we add a recommendation from the RJTF to the County Board. Lynn suggested adding language to show that this section was the beginning of an effort to reach out to community.

Esther made comments regarding the longer section of the report and how much it needs to be edited before it could be accepted. Sara suggested that each person share their thoughts on how to include one, both, or neither of the Structural sections. Sara noted that the consensus of the group appeared to be to include the shorter “Voices of the Community” section in the body of the full report with a contextual addition included.

Sara seconded Esther’s suggestion to include the comments from the community forums in the final report.

Ryan moved to approve the four page Voices of the Community section. Sam seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Financial Release Conditions

Lynn highlighted a few revisions since the RJTF last approved this section. The group included more data on Failure to Appear.

The working group to compile the final group should also list additional areas/issues that we did not have the resources to look at it.

Demario moved to approve this section. Sam seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Sara noted that the group First Followers has been collecting data on fines and fees and they will be presenting their work in the next few months.

Establish Final Report Working Group and Deadlines

Lynn asked that we discuss what the RJTF imagines the work of the working group will entail. The group discussed things the working group should focus on: consistent language, format of the report and structure of the sections, writing the introduction, references, acknowledgements, approval/explanation of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, methodology, Executive Summary including all recommendations.

Maryam and Amy can help with editing. Gerry can help with methodology and an Executive Summary. Sara will coordinate the work. Susan can help with other pieces. Lynn might be able to help with the introduction. Sara will create a Google Doc for an outline of the introduction.

The group discussed schedule. The RJTF will meet on September 28th. Demario wanted to remind everyone to consider discrimination, disparity, and racism, which all involve ugly language but that it is important to include that language because it is honest. Demario will try writing a few sentences on this topic for the final report.

VIII. Adjournment

Gerry moved to adjourn.