

Champaign County Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 29th, 2016
6:30 pm

I. Call to Order

Sam Byndom called the meeting to order at 6:30. The meeting occurred at the Urbana Middle School due to a lack of available space at the County's Brookens Center.

II. Roll Call

Members Present:

S. Balgoyen, L. Branham, S. Byndom, E. Dee, A. Felty, D. Harber, R. Hughes, A. James, S. Lerner, E. Patt, S. Silver, D. Turner, G. Walter.

Members Absent:

M. Ar-Raheem, R. Byrd, A. Evans, C. Randolph, H. Ross, K. Schneider, A. Shelton,.

III. Approval of Agenda

Sara moved to approve the agenda. Esther seconded the motion. Lynn offered an amendment to remove the scheduled time in this meeting for the Restorative Justice Committee as they would not be meeting. The motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Esther moved to approve the minutes. Artice seconded the motion. Gerry offered an amendment to change the spelling of the County Board Chair to Patsi Petrie. The motion carried.

V. Public Participation

No one from the public asked to speak.

VI. Subcommittee Meetings

Sara shared the memos that the U of I class working on a database put together to scope out the project. She told the subcommittees that they could review them and give comments back. The class will be at the next RJTF meeting.

Esther asked about two points in the memo which seemed contradictory. Sam responded that the task force will be able to ask the class questions when they are at the next meeting.

The subcommittees except for the Restorative Justice subcommittees met during this meeting. See below for their minutes.

VII. New Business

Susan spoke with the director of the Police Training Institute and said that he could give a presentation to the task force or to the Police Practices subcommittee. The group discussed

whether it would be efficient to have him speak to the task force. Ryan said it would be good for him to meet with the subcommittee but to hold off on planning that for now.

Sara brought up an email she sent to the group regarding the Adult Redeploy program funding available to the County through the State. It was noted that the County has ignored this opportunity in the past, and it is unlikely they would be able to put together an application before the October deadline. It will be considered as a recommendation for next year.

VIII. New Business

Sara asked for feedback for the class memos by Saturday night.

Amy brought up a talk on the book Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome by Joy DeGruy Wednesday, Oct. 5th.

IX. Adjournment

Artice moved to adjourn.

Community Engagement Subcommittee

Members Present: S. Byndom, G. Walter, R. Hughes, D. Harber.

I. Discussion of Next Steps

David shared that he thinks the subcommittee can be working on other items while it waits for the work of the U of I class. He contacted someone from the Story Corps National Public Radio project to ask for help with collecting stories. Someone offered to have a conversation with him and discuss technical challenges. David will email them back and keep the group informed. He also said that NPR could help put together a grant for this effort.

Sam suggested using Smile Politely for interviews.

It was agreed that the data portal/website should have space for the stories. David asked if the subcommittee was also going to be responsible for the public relations of the task force; the accessibility of the final report was discussed.

Police Practices Subcommittee

Members Present: R. Hughes, A. James, E. Dee

I. Discussion of data needs

The subcommittee discussed the questions that were sent to the U of I class. A discussion about the use of certain types of offenses (jaywalking, loitering, failure to obey) occurred. Artice said he would talk to community leaders about anecdotal evidence.

Legal Processes Subcommittee

Members present: Lynn Branham, Esther Patt, Susan Silver and Demario Turner

The subcommittee reviewed memos from the University of Illinois class that will be providing assistance with data collection and generated a list of questions for the class that we hope can be answered by the next full task force meeting on October 13.

Because the subcommittee has yet to discuss the full range of issues it will address, we will attempt to schedule a meeting before October 13. Esther Patt will find a meeting place and notify the other subcommittee members and ask for public notice of that meeting to be sent to the media.

Structural: Education, Employment, and Housing

Members present: Artice James and Amy Felty.

The group discussed the list of barriers vs. opportunities that are emerging from the interviews that the subcommittee members are doing.

Juvenile Justice

Members present: Sara & Scott Lerner

- I. Reviewed Memo from UI class
- II. Looked at some existing reports about detention meeting.