

City of Hyattsville
Race & Equity Task Force Committee Minutes
December 19, 2023

PRESENT

Task Force Members:

- Record Keeper Secretary Jocelyn Medallo (JM)
- Member Daniel Amador (DA)

Staff:

- Race & Equity Officer Shakira Louimarre (SL)

Council Member:

- Council Member Edoardo Haba (CM Haba)

Community Members:

- Jennifer Gafford
- Marshall

7:13 pm - Welcome & Call to Order – Secretary Medallo

7:14 pm – Roll Call – Secretary Medallo

7:15 pm – Acknowledgement of Guests– Secretary Medallo

Welcome Marshall.

7:16 pm – Adoption of November Meeting Minutes- Secretary Medallo

November and the December minutes will be adopted in January 2024.

7:17 pm – 8:25 pm – Equity Plan Updates Work Session - Liaison Louimarre

- As of our last meeting, we left off in the jobs section.
- DA: I propose we add a cross-cutting: addition of program evaluation / data analyst across programs but with a focus on building equity.
- SL: Currently, there is not a single position or department dedicated to this. There are a number of roles that are in the job description phase or not quite in the market yet. This might be a mid-range recommendation. There is a grants writer position in the works. That might have a close relationship with evaluation and could be overlap there. The housing manager position.

- DA: The second activity: we talk about geospatial data and collecting data on aging population and doing a needs assessment. It can be a position description for data analyst position. Does the city currently do an analysis of city dollars and where investments are mostly made? The data analysis would do an analysis across the board.
- DA: Create pathways for home ownership for minorities – I know that there is the housing initiative partnership that manages affordable housing for artists. To what extent does Hyattsville already have partnerships with housing initiative or would that be a worthwhile to include in this report?
- SL: Right now, there are no existing programs. It sounds like this recommendation would be aligned with Auntie’s Home or that type of program.
- CM Haba: The short answer is no, to my knowledge. But it is a good recommendation since we are moving to having affordable housing recommendations in the city.
- DA: This could be a separate recommendation. My understanding is that the City may have funds they dedicate to development activities. One last comment is on sustainability on housing and transportation.
- JM: There is a sustainability plan – we should liaise with that group so we aren’t working in silos.
- SL: There is some space in the introduction or somewhere in the report to name sustainability and equity to be named in the report.
- DA: Public Wi-Fi study (2023 ARPA) – we are heading in the right direction so we can leave it in there. There is a proposal to extend that same wiring to provide public Wi-Fi and it is attainable.

- SL: There are a lot of equity issues – data piracy, the net system will run through police headquarters.
- CM Haba: Suggest changing to “Formalize West Hyattsville business group.”
- DA: Maybe there can be a section on “item that align to regional or local plans or strategies.” There are initiatives that are already out there and there is an equity piece to it. In the initial draft, we can separate which things are from the RETF and which go to existing plans.
- SL: Circle back to Policing section recommendation on “verbal abuse”
- DA: Section 50 split the two.
- CM Haba: If you are looking at East West Corridor, you may want to include the Hamilton Street Commercial Corridor business.
- DA: Is there anything that stops us from sharing our priorities ahead of the February 5 meeting?
- JG: I like DA’s recommendation to share before the meeting before we present. Is there a way to find out if we could share?
- SL: Yes, on giving them the plan in advance. In terms of getting an idea where people stand, lean on our Council Liaisons Lee and Haba. In January, this group will have the time to make a budgetary request that aligns with something in our plan. That is another way to bolster.

8:26 pm – 8:30 pm – Adjourn Meeting – Secretary Medallo

- Review of items on next week’s agenda
 - Taking a vote on chairs and positions in January
 - Ad hoc meeting

- JM moves to adjourn; DA seconds.