

City of Hyattsville, Race & Equity Task Force Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 28th, 2025, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

In attendance:

Jessica Garth

Farrah R.

Jocelyn M.

Daniel AR.

Nykia C.

Marshall.

7:06 pm - Welcome & Call to Order – Co-chair Amador

7:06 -Motion to add Review of the 2026 calendar

IC; JM seconds

7:06 pm - 7:05 pm – Roll Call – Co-chair Clemonts

7:05 pm - 7:10 pm – Acknowledgement of Guests and Public Comment– Co-chair Amador

Welcome, Mr. Marshall.

7:09 pm – 7:09 pm – Approval of August Meeting Minutes– Recorder Medallo

IC moves to approve August meeting minutes; JC seconds.

7:09 pm – 7:17 pm – Climate Action Plan Resident Survey – Shanna Pearson, UMD

- University of Maryland Public Policy student. UMD is helping Hyattsville create their Climate Action Plan. Survey has QR code but we didn't get a diverse group of respondents. We weren't able to get into apartment buildings etc. We are doing outreach. Can RETF share this survey with 5 people?
 - Will share Tinyurl.com link
- JM: Thank you for attending. It is very much the case that climate change will multiple existing inequities, so this is a good link to the RETF work. What kind of equity and intersectionality issues are captured in the survey?
- IC: Will we know the results of this survey?

- Unsure but it will be used in the Climate Action Plan.

7:17 pm – 8:12 pm – Equity Plan Work Session– Liaison Louimarre

- Presentation Debrief – we presented last month. It came back for discussion on October 20th and it was instead Council President Solomon and Council Member Haba bumped it up from discussion to action. It was formally adopted as was the revised Committee worksheet! The only thing that is for further discussion is the Vision Statement – there was some feedback.
 - DA: It was well-received by Council. The format and focusing on the top recommendations and the impact of those recommendations was very helpful. Just the way that it was organized – there were many ideas in the beginning when we started with this work and we focused it. There was a lot of public comment; there were questions about implementation and cost. Particularly around costs, people have the impression that equity and inclusion is an additional cost. Something for us to think about as we continue to be advisors to Council is that equity should be how government works – how we evaluate the success of policies and initiatives; it shouldn't be something extra. The idea that it might cost a lot of money – I want to open it up to debate and question that premise that it requires resources for it to come. Around implementation, they had questions about the emergency fund for housing; it is exciting because it would be great to be involved and advise on that process because we have many lived experiences in the community.
 - NC: They were concerned about the money – how much it would cost and where the money would come from. The rent assistance plan – we mirrored it off of Takoma Park and they were drilling down on the details. As advisors, we are bringing these ideas to the table. The Vision statement – we spent months ironing out the Vision statement so that included everyone without leaving anyone out.
 - JM: Amazing leadership; will be update the previous RETF members who also contributed to this document?
 - JG: Privileged to be a part of this milestone.
 - SL: [Shared video from Council meeting] – comments on Vision Statement including on length; whether to name all protected classes
- Review Vision Statement
 - Protected class defined by federal law versus Maryland law definition, which is more progressive.

- JG: We don't want to limit to protected status in case protected status changes due to future administrations.
- DA: We can share two versions and our rationale for not limiting ourselves to the federally protected classes.
- Feedback on Committee Worksheet
 - SL: With this milestone passed, the RETF would take issues of interest to the Committee.

8:12pm – 8:20pm – Review 2026 Meeting Calendar

- When Spring 2026 comes, we can make a decision about whether we shift or remove the July 28, 2026 meeting for summer break.
- Vote on adopting the revised schedule.
 - DA moves to approve the meeting calendar draft with the corrections for November and December meetings; NC seconds.

8:20 pm – Adjourn Meeting – Co-chair Amador

- Before we adjourn, now that we have gone through the Equity Plan, we will have to draft the agenda items. If there is an item you want to discuss, please send a note.
 - JM moves to adjourn; NC seconds; all in favor.