

**City of Hyattsville  
Race & Equity Task Force Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 28th, 2026  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

***TASK FORCE MEMBERS:***

Co-Chair Daniel Amador Renard (DA)  
Record Keeper Secretary Jocelyn Medallo (JM)  
Member Jessica Garth (JG)  
Member Christopher Koya (CK)

***STAFF:***

Race & Equity Officer Shakira Louimarre (SL)  
Council Member Kelson Nisbett (CM KN)

**7:04 pm - Welcome & Call to Order** – Co-chair Amador Renard

**7:04 pm - 7:05 pm – Roll Call** – Co-chair Amador Renard

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

No community guests.

**7:06 pm – 7:09 pm – Approval of Ad-hoc April Minutes**– Recorder Medallo

- JM: The April 7 meeting minutes have been distributed. Are there any corrections to the minutes?
  - DA: One correction is language that states that the RETF voted unanimously to approve the language presented to Council
- JM moves to unanimously approve the language presented to Council; DA seconds, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.
- JM: Motion passes. The April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes will be revised to add language that the language presented to Council was unanimously approved.

**7:09 pm – 7:25 pm – Discussion of Documentary Screening** – Co-chair Amador Renard

- Proposal from Hyattsville filmmaker, Adam Krell, was to partner with RETF to do a community screening. Unclear whether RETF would request space for screening to take place. The last issue would be whether we want to have a facilitated conversation after

the event. Generally, are there any concerns with the documentary and associating with the RETF?

- JG: My only concern is that it is based on religion, but the film seems to come from a diverse religious perspective. Given the separation of church and State, it is looking at religion as a place for potential healing. We should acknowledge that.
  - DA: What would that acknowledgement look like? They do have indigenous communities talking about their faith and everything that happened to their tribe. They did talk about Judaism.
  - JG: They do have the inter-faith bus tour too. On the one hand, the point of the documentary is that Christianity has led to some racial strife in the United States. It may be hard to talk about what happens in America right now. I would just acknowledge upfront that it is a religious topic and that we are not co-sponsoring one particular religion -- but we thought the film would generate discussion amongst the community.
  - DA: Do have City language along those lines if we promote this film?
  - SL: Yes, we have or would create it. If we decided to partner, at that point the communications team would be involved.
  - CK: It's important to bring clarity that we aren't trying to prescribe solutions or saying that one perspective is better than another, or representatives in the City are saying this in any way. But it is trying to bring up a new conversation.
  - SL: The angle would likely be uplifting a Hyattsville artist, and the thoughts expressed are from that person – for in-kind partnership.
  - CK: There's always an inherent promotion that you're implying promoting the issue so would want to check with the City on language and precedent.
- DA moves for RETF to explore partnership opportunities with this filmmaker; JG seconds; all in favor. The motion passes unanimously. Next steps will be to be in touch with the filmmaker. We will check with the City to see what we can move forward with and then as a second step, reach out to the filmmaker.

**7:25 pm – 7:31 pm – Discussion of Discretionary Funding Proposal – Co-Chair Amador**

Renard

- DA: We are requesting 200 in discretionary funds to purchase t-shirts that have “RETF” to wear during City events. The aim is to make us more visible.
- SL: Committees do not have budgets, so this would be a request to either your Council liaison or members to fully give \$200 or split it up amongst them. It is not a budget line item.
- JG: Seems reasonable.
- CK: I support personalized merchandise.

- JM: What would the design be? Our logo?
  - DA: Nothing defined yet.
  - SL: Comms team was asked to create a logo and they did. You could use that.
- DA: We will forward the proposal that Co-chair drafted with CM Lee and CM Nisbett.
- CM KN: The most important part now is when you need the money. The best way to do is that CMs will make a request, we will make that request. We can either pull from one individual discretionary pot or ask all members to pull. Regardless of where it comes from, all council members will vote on it. If t-shirts are needed, I would keep an eye on the other discretionary funds and see what else is left.
- SL: Because of the nature of tabling, you may want to add one of the table clothes.

**7:31 pm – 8:11 pm – Equity Officer Update - Liaison Louimarre**

- The next RETF conflicts with the next Council Meeting, May 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - All open to rescheduling or canceling if needed.
  - DA moves to move meeting to May 27<sup>th</sup> at 7PM; JG seconds. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.
- Overview of RETF Shared Drive
- Roles, Responsibilities and Open Meetings Act Refresher
  - DA: Do we have the list of sessions that different RETF members will attend City Council? Draft emails for engagement?
    - JM: Here are the dates and role allocation from the Feb. 2026 meeting minutes:
      - March 9 - DA
      - March 23 - JG
      - April (both): NC
      - May 11- DA
      - May 26 – JM
      - July 13- JM
      - August – JG
      - Budget meetings – SL
  - Review Roles and Responsibilities of Equity Officer; Council Liaison; Liaisons; City Advisory Bodies (subject to Maryland Open Meetings Act when there is a quorum in the meeting). It is possible to create a quorum even in a digital setting – i.e., all in a shared document would be a quorum or dialogue online – do not want to create a false quorum for a meeting that was not made public. All RETF committee members are required to complete the training.
  - [SL reviewed list of scenarios]

- DA: To recap, we had agreed on promoting RETF, liaising with other Committees; and reminding Council members of our revised role and they can come to us as advisors. How do we remind Council members of our revised role?
  - SL: Email could go directly from RETF to Clerk's office.
- CM Nisbett: Agree that you can send a message to the clerk but as a courtesy it's good to courtesy copy your Council Liaison. I may not agree with everything but I will represent the integrity of the RETF.
- JM: What was the role of the RETF on the Climate Action Plan, for example? We weighed in on an individual level.
- SL: Finally, I had shared email about providing comments on public art in the city. That closes soon – please share with your neighbors.

**8:11 pm – Adjourn Meeting – Co-chair Amador Renard**

- DA: Send agenda items 1 -1.5 weeks before. We will come back to the worksheet and revisit advisor role. The other thing is that we will schedule an IRL get-together.
- DA moves to adjourn the meeting; JM seconds. All in favor.