

DUBLIN COMMUNITY TASK FORCE
Wednesday, September 9, 2020
Minutes of Meeting

Mayor Amorose Groomes welcomed all of the members and staff to this initial meeting of the Community Task Force and thanked everyone for their willingness to participate and make this commitment to this important initiative. She noted that Resolution 41-20 adopted by Council on August 10 established this Task Force and the Chief's Advisory Committee, appointed members, outlined their duties and functions, but added that the groups have wide latitude in carrying out their mission. The goal tonight is for discussion of the Resolution, provide an opportunity for everyone to get to know one another, brainstorm ideas for public engagement, and discuss goals and outcomes. Public comment is welcome and is included on the agenda tonight. She noted that she is leaving the meeting at this point so that the Task Force members' voices can be heard and hopes that they can engage in robust, honest conversation.

Roll Call

Present were: Ms. Erica Adams, Mr. Kofi Amponsah, Ms. Rama Billakanty, Ms. Deneisha Franklin, Dr. Todd Hoadley, Mr. Ron Jordan, Ms. Bridgette Mariea, Ms. Lynette Mercado, Mr. Jamil Robinson, Dr. Ajay Satyapriya, Mr. Isao Shoji, Ms. Sylvina Smith, Ms. Nancy Sofowora, Mr. Vincent Wang and Mr. Stephen White.

Staff members present were: Mr. McDaniel, J.M. Rayburn, Ms. Puranik and Ms. Blaine.

Mr. McDaniel commented that it is a pleasure to get to know all of those who expressed interest in being part of this Task Force. It is a great challenge for the Task Force to take on this role. He is very excited about the great things they will do!

He introduced the staff members who are supporting this Task Force – J.M. Rayburn, Planner and City LGBTQ+ liaison and Devayani Puranik, Senior Planner; and Shirley Blaine of Communications and Public Information.

He stated that this Task Force is about our community democracy. We have boards, commissions, committees and elected officials, plus other advisory committees. Task Forces are an advisory type committee with a starting and ending point. This is an important vehicle for Council when a rapid response to issues is needed. This Task Force will work specifically on the matters that are part of Resolution 37-20 and Resolution 41-20. He explained that Resolution 41-20 includes three parts – the Community Task Force, the Chief's Advisory Committee and the general public engagement process. This is a dialogue and discussion for the general public to obtain feedback and input from the larger community as a whole who will bring ideas to this Task Force for further discussion.

Resolution 37-20 was a statement about the City's position and need for action to combat injustice, inequity, intolerance, negative stereotyping and discrimination based

on race, religion, ethnicity or belief. Resolution 41-20 enacts legislation that establishes the Task Force and the Chief's Advisory Committee, articulating the duties and functions. He described the content of this Resolution in detail, emphasizing Section G that contains the duties and functions.

Individual Introductions

Mr. McDaniel invited each member, including staff to introduce themselves, their reasons for interest in serving, and what they desire to achieve.

Ms. Erica Adams stated she is looking forward to sharing ideas and having a very synergistic, collaborative experience to make a positive difference. She is the mother of three girls who attend Dublin Schools – Jerome and Grizzell. She has lived in the Dublin area for 13 years in total.

Mr. Kofi Amponsah stated that he grew up in Dublin Schools beginning with elementary school. He is currently enrolled at the University of Cincinnati with a major of biology. He is also interning in Sports Medicine at UC. He believes Dublin has a lot to address and is glad to be a voice and help with this change that is coming.

Ms. Rama Billakanty stated she has lived for nearly 11 years in Dublin. She is a researcher by profession, but is on break for her children. She owns tutoring centers, which are now closed due to the pandemic. She would like to be the voice of the community and is pleased Dublin is undertaking this initiative. She is glad to be part of this and hopes to make a difference.

Ms. Daneisha Franklin has worked in Dublin for four years. She is originally from Cleveland. She is focused on the tech industry, and diversity and inclusion is her passion. She hopes to be able to have conversations from an honest place and is excited for that conversation and looking forward to the journey.

Dr. Todd Hoadley stated he, too, is from Cleveland and has served as a school superintendent in communities including Dublin for 22 years. The last 4-5 months have been very difficult in view of the national conversation. This is a long overdue conversation in Dublin as we continue to grow more diverse – making sure Dublin is a place where everyone feels safe, valued and included. He looks forward to the journey.

Mr. Ron Jordan stated he is the owner and operator of Hen Quarter and the Jordan Hospitality Group. He is not a resident, as he lives in New Albany, but is part of the Dublin community as a restaurant owner. He wants to lend his voice to some of the challenges in Dublin and provide some insights and suggestions that might help prospective business owners.

Ms. Bridgette Mariea agrees with the priorities as stated in the Resolution. She lives in what is called the Dublin "bubble," but wants to make that bubble a lot more inclusive. Her three children graduated from Dublin Jerome. She and her husband, Joseph Wise own Roto in Dublin, designing interactive exhibits. Her work focuses on Human Resources, but she is also very involved with philanthropic activities, affordable housing and lifestyle choices. Her work is very relevant to this group's mission.

Ms. Lynette Mercado stated she moved to the Plain City/Jerome Township area five years ago from Chicago. In Chicago, she served as a City Commissioner representing the Puerto Rican community. She has four children who have attended Dublin Schools, three of whom currently attend. There are less than 10 Latinos in the school they attend. It is an interesting journey and she is grateful to Dublin School Board President Chris Valentine and Superintendent Dr. Hoadley who have responded to the "Dear Dublin" page. She is grateful the table has been made bigger so that we can contribute and have this conversation. The Hispanic community is growing and thriving, and it is important to be at the table for this dialogue that needs to include black as well as brown people.

Mr. Jamil Robinson is a senior at Dublin Coffman and plans to study pre-med or health sciences in college. His family moved to Dublin when he was five and he attended Bailey, Sells and now Coffman. He wants to be part of this and help make a difference.

Dr. Ajay Satyapriya noted he grew up in Columbus and left after college – living in Chicago, D.C. and New York. His wife is from Cleveland and they wanted to move back to Dublin. He loves the community and has been back in Dublin for 10 years. He is a physician at Dublin Methodist and Riverside Hospitals and also has a small business.

Mr. Isao Shoji stated it is a privilege to serve on this Task Force. He echoes everyone's excitement and hopes for this work to be done together. He is Taiwanese and grew up in Japan until age 13. He came to the U.S. as an immigrant in 8th grade and came to Central Ohio as a freshman in Hilliard, Ohio. His wife wanted to move to Dublin and they did so three years ago. They feel they belong, have been welcomed and their children are thriving. He has a 7-year old at Indian Run and a 5-year old. His hope is that through this effort, he can give someone a chance to start at the same starting line we all deserve. As an immigrant, he had help from many. Some won't have that opportunity unless there is help – there are some race-related issues and socioeconomic issues. If this is done right, this will be an awesome place for the next generation to live and love.

Ms. Silvina Smith noted she works for Dublin Schools and previously lived in the area of Dublin. Five years ago, she moved away and does not live in Dublin now. However, she

came back to work in Dublin four years ago and has worked with the Hispanic Latino community over 20 years. She understands what they go through and the experiences they have, and has assisted them with learning how to navigate what they need to do when they come to this country without language skills – be their voice, raise their concerns, and work with parents to help them deal with issues.

Ms. Nancy Sofowora stated she was born and raised in Kenya. Her heart is in Kenya AND the U.S. Her husband is from West Africa - Nigeria. There is much diversity within all groups – yes, she is black but does not have the same experience as African Americans. Her children are Americans. Her children visited Kenya and came back to school in the U.S. and shared their stories. We are in a District that prides itself on global awareness, yet we still have a single story narrative for blacks. She is glad that this group is diverse in age, too, as it is important to have someone older than you, a peer and someone younger than you in your circle. The set-up in the U.S. cuts out large groups of people, and there is a need to be inclusive.

Mr. Vincent Wang stated that there are diverse voices in this group. Dublin is a vibrant and diverse community and that is part of the reason they moved to Dublin 11 years ago. They have two children – a sixth grader at Karrer and a freshman at Jerome. They talk often about how to be a true community member, enjoying the benefits and contributing. His day job is working for Charter Communications in analytics. In his spare time, he volunteers for the Ohio Chinese American Association and the Asian Pacific Islander Association. We are all equal citizens here regardless of how you come to the U.S. or your origin. There is an American dream and it is important to contribute to other's American Dream. These two organizations work for the homeless shelters, senior homes, and first responders. He is excited to be part of this Task Force.

Mr. Stephen White thanked the City staff, City Council and Dr. Hoadley for their leadership in assembling this task force to address important issues. He is a Cincinnati native – a first generation college student. He did his undergrad and grad studies at The Ohio State University. He worked 10 years in D.C. and in Ohio for the U.S. Senate, focusing on public policy issues. He has been with COSI for two years as a Vice President and handles issues related to engaging and transforming lives around science and technology. He is a firm believer that education is the great equalizer – lifting people out of poverty. He is a Dublin resident of five years and they have two children, ages two and four. They chose Dublin because it is a unique city – innovative, smart, inclusive, and the boldness to be great. There are great businesses and people in Dublin and a great culture. There is a determination to create this perfect union and the task force is starting at the right moment. It is a unique moment in history around two defining moments – a once in a lifetime Pandemic that has fundamentally changed aspects of our lives and the reawakening of societal inequities. This has caused us to

take a hard look at all facets of our society and how we can “move the needle.” The “who” is to impact the lives of constituents regardless of age or race and elevate individuals to create that equity that is so desired. The “what” are the recommendations to Council on tangible strategies we can execute upon. The hope is that the Task Force report results in action, and for the City to continue to grow and be great. The “why” is the recognition that we are in a defining moment. This task force is positioning our city to be a leader – really engaging, spirited dialogue that many will have.

Ms. Devayani Puranik stated she has been with the City Planning Division for six years and has been a resident of Dublin for 17 years. She has children in Dublin Schools. She is hopeful for our city that action-oriented recommendations come forward as a result of this work. She thanked the Task Force for allowing her to be part of the support team.

Mr. J.M. Rayburn thanked the Task Force as well for allowing his participation as a support team member. It is a privilege to support this group. We believe in this mission and are happy to be part of the journey.

Ms. Shirley Blaine stated she is new to the City staff, having joined Communications and Public Information in June. She came from the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium where she did social media work. In her role with the City, she does public relations, social media, press releases, etc. She is interested in learning more about the Task Force ideas and suggestions to address equality for everyone. She will also be monitoring for public comments to read.

Ms. Anne Clarke noted she has served as Clerk of Council for over 29 years and is glad to be helping out with this initiative. She added that she is very impressed with everyone’s comments and backgrounds and is excited that the Clerk’s office will be part of this.

Mr. McDaniel stated that he has been with the City staff for 32 years in various capacities. He has had the privilege and honor to be the City Manager, appointed by City Council for over five years. He dedicates and lives his life for democracy and is proud of that. He looks forward to supporting this Task Force in the great work they will be doing.

He noted that as other members join the Task Force, they will also be invited to share with the group their background and desires for what the Task Force will accomplish.

Brainstorm Ideas on Public Engagement Sessions for the Community

Mr. McDaniel stated that he wants to hear the Task Force members’ ideas for doing this, which is challenging in the midst of a pandemic. He asked what they think about the notion of bringing the community together in a town hall type of meeting.

Mr. Amponsah stated this is a great idea, as there are many residents who want to have their voices heard. A good example was the MLK Sunday Supper where leaders talked of diversity and inclusion. He would like to hear more from students, perhaps within individual schools. Students have a lot to contribute, but may not be comfortable speaking in all environments.

Ms. Franklin suggested engaging people in other ways than meetings, as some have conflicts with their schedules and could not attend.

Mr. White stated he likes the idea of leveraging technology through surveys, leveraging the power of social media on particular topics and using focus groups on specific topics.

Ms. Smith stated that in order to reach those with language barriers, the surveys should be done by computer and translated.

Mr. Shoji stated there are cultures that are quieter in nature than others, and some do not feel comfortable speaking up. We have to ensure we pay attention not only to language, but to the way or method made available to people. A town hall would be great for some, but others would not even consider that. We need to be cognizant of communication styles and get to people to learn their thoughts.

Ms. Sofowora added that even those who speak English may be self-conscious about their accent. Americans are not patient, and if a public meeting is called, the same confident people will speak up. Perhaps going to the African community with one or two reps and have focus groups would be an option to consider.

Ms. Mercado stated that in Chicago, they connected with the faith community as well. People feel safe there. They sponsored table gatherings – special conversations that could occur in safe spaces. Perhaps hosting something like that for Dublin, encompassing everyone would be worthwhile. This would be grass roots driven and very effective, as community members would host the sessions.

Mr. Wang stated this is a very diverse community and they respond to different formats and styles. We need ongoing communication with focus groups or meetings and cadence is important. He appreciates Dr. Hoadley hosting coffees for people to drop in and share dialogue in small groups. It is less intimidating, essentially bringing the meeting into the community. People will be more comfortable in sharing their thoughts.

Mr. White stated that bringing the meeting to them is a great idea. His hope is that the task force is data driven and that data will be used to drive discussions. Maybe bring in data to facilitate discussions on various topics, have guest speakers, policy experts to start the dialogue. Perhaps Steve Francis could suggest some speakers to begin the dialogue.

Ms. Franklin stated that she works at Wendy's in the business intelligence area related to data. She believes it would be useful for us internally to determine what makes the most sense – a targeted approach – and avoid making assumptions about what people need.

Ms. Mercado stated that the "Dear Dublin Ohio" group has many stories and lots of data about where the issues lie. She is not sure who operates it, but thinks there is a base with the kids in the education sector. There are sensitivity issues about data. What data does the City already have? What already exists that could be used as a foundation to build upon?

Mr. McDaniel stated there are fundamental shifts in demographics that changes the tenor of who is active in the community. We have engaged the Asian and Indian communities and have had dialogue over the years. It was not as comprehensive as this effort and was more targeted. It originated with economic development and engagement efforts.

Dr. Hoadley stated the ideas presented are excellent. The Schools have found it helpful to go out to where people are comfortable, i.e. their turf – starting slow and small. There are so many experts within our community. We can reach out to 30 people who can be a voice for many more. We should continue to target those in the community already viewed as leaders. They can help further the discussion of how to engage in trying times. He wants to continue to focus on our youth – they have lots to say and stories to share. He credits Kofi for his participation from Cincinnati. The technology enables him to continue to participate.

Mr. McDaniel asked if there are topical areas of interest or is it the surveying, engagement and outreach that will drive that? Kofi mentioned the idea of a forum for people to come and vent, and that might inform us where the real concerns are.

Mr. Robinson stated we could serve as close liaisons to students, especially at the high schools and find ways to reach out to them. They could reach out to the high school organizations to seek their help.

Mr. Amponsah stated that before this task force was established, he had created a survey and sent it to current and past black Coffman students. These responses led to a dialogue with various community leaders and it worked well. This could be done citywide with Hispanic and Asian students as well. From that, we could learn about the major issues.

Mr. White stated that is a great recommendation. Surveys are powerful tools. Instead of presupposing, let the community weigh in on topics. Send it out to students, families

and businesses. Also do an event – maybe digital – and invite the public to come in and share their stories or feedback.

Ms. Franklin asked if there is a way to document the various organizations we have access to in the city for each task force member – perhaps using a google doc? This would be a listing of the different organizations that we are all a part of on a regular basis.

Ms. Sofowora offered that each member would need to follow through about sending a survey versus simply having a survey sent by the City. We should send it to the people we know and spread it from there. We can still do a blanket survey to be deliberate and get accurate representation.

Ms. Bellakanty stated she leans to having small group community meetings. Big groups may not make people comfortable. It is rare to see new people – the same people are always involved. She would advocate trying smaller community groups.

Ms. Smith suggested starting small and making it bigger going forward. She also deals with parents with technology issues. She would help with informing them that a survey is coming and how to access it. There are not simply language issues. Some parents are not literate and students assist parents in reading.

Ms. Mercado stated that surveying kids is best as they are the ones who are active and who are our future. They have a pulse on issues in the community. Start from there and get the data. Maybe they speak to the challenges their parents face, the disparity between the three high schools, and identify how to bridge gaps. We already know there is an interest in that.

Mr. McDaniel added that a portion of Dublin lies in Hilliard Schools, as well, so representation will be sought from that group.

Ideas/suggestions on the way ahead

Ms. Adams commented on her children's experience at Dublin Schools with regard to inequality. Many kids say offensive things, but perhaps don't realize it. The children are our future and can change the trajectory of our community. It is so important that we get to the root of the issues and why we have so much fear and misunderstanding of things. Instead of negative experiences, the focus should be on learning. It is discouraging and disempowering for parents and there is still not a place where an open dialogue can take place. She wants more opportunities for kids to talk through what they are experiencing.

Ms. Mercado stated that her children opted to do remote learning because of being called names due to ethnicity. The Dear Dublin Ohio platform brought together kids

with the same pain. The question is what do we do with this awareness now. She doesn't want home schooling – she wants the Schools to be safe and a place where differences are celebrated.

Ms. Franklin stated that as a young professional working primarily in Dublin, she has a dual experience within the community – a great experience career-wise, but going out in casual clothes in the City is a very different experience. She feels welcomed as a businessperson in Dublin, but not as a resident. She does not have solutions, but what can we do to draw awareness of this dual identity issue? Encourage people to think about the people you work with, go to school with, and what does their life look like outside of that. Self-reflection is needed as the issues we face are systemic problems. She does not see a future where racism or sexism do not exist – so the focus needs to be on having systems to mitigate this.

Mr. Rayburn, speaking for the LGBTQ+ community, stated it is important to speak on behalf of these youth and their parents. They need support and support networks.

Mr. White commented to Ms. Adams that the focus on youth is critically important and he is passionate about that. They need to have the opportunity to succeed in schools. Another topic is the issue of diversity in the workplace and job opportunities in Dublin, not just in school.

Mr. Shoji was reminded of experiences he had as a Taiwanese who grew up in Japan and was picked on and experienced name calling as a child. If we truly want to get to what people think or what the mentality of the community is, he echoes the need to pay attention to what our children go through in school. It is important for us to realize that even though in this group, we recognize there is a problem and opportunity, but there are many in Dublin who think everything is just fine. They believe that people who think otherwise are ungrateful. We should pay attention to that and find out how widespread that type of thinking might be. That tells us what we will be dealing with – our starting point. So when we ask to hear about experiences, don't focus just on groups we are connected with, but general Dublin.

Ms. Franklin added that at the end of day, youth go home to their parents. We need to reach those parents and get in front of them. Children learn from parents. His points are excellent.

Ms. Sofowora questioned the concept of equity and for who. Who defines equity? What is equity so we have a common ground? Share our experiences such as dual identities. Her husband likes to work out early morning. The first time he did so, he was stopped on his way by Police. This happened again and then a third time. After that, he changed his routine to work out at other times. Now he tells their son not to ride a bike out at night. Those are the kinds of experiences that are transferred to kids – the fear. In a

panel discussion this week, she heard of a black girl who has grown up in a predominantly white community. She realizes they accept her as long as she stays in her group. She never really assimilated. Education is where changes are made. She grew up in Kenya with different tribes, but in school, all became one. She knows it is a conversation that needs to take place – sharing experiences.

Mr. Robinson stated that a few weeks ago, he visited a store with his father and purchased an item. The cashier didn't give them a bag; his dad then asked for a bag and the clerk questioned why he needed that. A person of color walking out of a store with an item not in a bag will be assumed to be shoplifting. It is real. Just like Trevon Martin who lost his life. Students need to learn this when young. Maybe there are ways to do that through the school system.

Mr. Amponsah stated when it comes to youth, there are issues on two fronts. It starts in the household when it comes to watching tv and social media. There is dangerous rhetoric that can hurt others. Students go to schools and act out after seeing that. This can hurt minority groups. A way we can fight this is by the town hall, small focus groups, and school administrators not tolerating this. It is hard to get diversity in the workplace in Dublin when black students graduate and want nothing to do with Dublin. None want to come back to Dublin because of their experiences growing up here.

Ms. Smith urged the task force not to divide groups. She wants to find common ground to bring messages to and from the community that are positive – ground rules to assist. It might take a long time. Doing polls to see what the community needs. She encouraged not getting into what individual groups are about – it is sometimes difficult to share. She wanted to be part of something that can bring positives to them, using verbal communication. She is not sure that is possible.

Mr. McDaniel commented that he believes all things are possible! He noted that Dr. Hoadley must depart the meeting to attend the School Board meeting at 8 p.m.

Dr. Hoadley thanked the Board of Education for shifting their meeting tonight so he could participate in the task force. He noted that 70 percent of our residents are white and they will question how this conversation will help them. Moving the bar and becoming more inclusive will elevate Dublin even higher. Only good things come when we have these conversations and understand each other more. He thanked everyone for allowing him to be part of this.

Mr. Wang agreed that youth and adult experiences are different. Kids go home and talk to their parents about their experiences. Most bias stems from communication gaps and different ways of thinking. We should try to bridge the gap to help people to talk with each other more and immerse themselves into the same environment. Adults tend to huddle together. When kids get older, kids are more comfortable talking with their peer

group. He does not have a solution. Perhaps a multicultural night and exposure to different ideas could be hosted.

Ms. Billakanty stated that not only the kids, but the parents gather with people of the same background. As children get older, they tend to hang out with their own culture group. We could work on bridging that gap with kids.

Mr. White stated it is a two-way street. How do we make our kids want to stay here and work here? He believes we need to work on that.

Ms. Adams stated her daughter will graduate next year, but does not want to stay in Dublin. She wants to move far away to people who accept her for what she is. For true change, we have to have these uncomfortable conversations. Educate each other. What are we afraid of – systemic racism on all accounts? Why is it still so prevalent today? There is a fear base behind that. Have a town hall meeting and persuade people to come and to speak in a safe place about these issues.

Ms. Franklin stated that bringing a positive lens is important, but it is also important to be very intentional about what we are doing. The positive lens comes from creating a space to bring awareness and an action plan for change. What voices are we not hearing? She wants to hear these. We can assume what people are going through, but many don't recognize there is even an issue. We need to address this head on.

Mr. McDaniel noted there will always be a part of the population who will not be responsive. That can cross cultures and race. How we get people to engage with each other is a great challenge of this task force and how to bridge that gap between not only race, but cultures, ages, disabilities, etc.

Ms. Mariea stated these are very difficult issues. In the back of her mind, she is concerned about what might be the silent majority who are not represented on this task force. It might be beneficial, besides getting input, to learn if the City has their own vision of the task force. Many of us are focused on race, inclusion and equity, but maybe a top down decision to be a multicultural suburb could be helpful. She is a little worried about getting input from everyone involved with the task force and not necessarily having the overall support from the community to make the changes that need to happen.

Mr. McDaniel stated these are great observations. Trying to move society is a heavy lift. Going in, he accepts we cannot change everyone. But if we can move the community toward embracing each other and bridging the gaps, that is noteworthy. He is most disturbed about the comment that kids who grow up in Dublin don't want to live here. This is not what he wants for the future of this community. He recommends that the silent majority thoughts be drawn out versus the fear of not knowing their thoughts.

Mr. Wang agreed. There are issues to be addressed and tonight is a great start. He knows that much work went into making sure the Task Force members were a diverse group representing all parts of the community. When he worked with the City's Communications staff as part of the Asian American group, they created a We Chat group. This enabled connection in the social media world. There are two groups of key community leaders/influencers involved in this and it has worked well and continues to grow.

Goals and Outcomes

Mr. McDaniel stated that Mr. White suggested that this be added to the agenda to ensure action items, measurable outcomes and results.

Mr. White stated he is optimistic about this Task Force. These are difficult issues, but we are having the difficult conversation in order to make our city a better place for our youth for the future. Perhaps at the end of this in a year or so when we wrap up – and have a series of high level strategies as an outcome – we would share these back to City Council. And perhaps some recommendations relating to the data collected and how to “move the dial” as it relates to those data points and how to measure that going forward. Strategies, under that recommendations, and then measurements that we as a city can determine if we are advancing/progressing as we move forward.

Chair/Vice Chair Selection

Mr. McDaniel stated that this task force is intended to be self-directed and self-driven. The Task Force can certainly suggest other exploration outside of the parameters of the resolution. If there are resources needed -- speakers, information, expertise, facilitators -- to help in this process, he encouraged the group to request them. He encouraged all to research and explore individually and bring those things forward to the task force.

As far as Chair and Vice Chair positions, the Chair will help to set and drive the agenda and run the meeting, and the Vice Chair serves when the chair is not available. If interested in these roles, he encouraged the members to share their interest with their peers. The goal is by the third meeting to determine who will serve in those roles. The Chair will work with staff in formation of the agenda. This is a public meeting/public process and we need to meet the statutory and legal requirements for public meetings.

Public Comment

Ms. Blaine reported that no public comment has been received at the website.

Next Steps

Mr. McDaniel stated this was an incredible dialogue and conversation. He has taken notes and the Clerk will provide minutes of the meeting for future reference. These will

be shared with Council as well. He, Mr. Rayburn and Ms. Puranik will take back what they have heard tonight and synthesize that. They will advance back some items to the Task Force for consideration. He would like to think about the technology suggestions. He encouraged the members to engage with staff, keep thinking and share any thoughts they might have.

Ms. Franklin stated it is important to find a method of shared communication as e-mails can be difficult to track. Things can be lost in e-mails.

Mr. McDaniel stated that staff will investigate all technology that can be leveraged.

Mr. White asked if the Task Force is prohibited from setting up communication outside of the meetings due to open meetings law.

Mr. McDaniel responded he sees nothing wrong with sharing info and pushing information out. Staff will make sure that everyone has access to all of it. He might invite the Law Director to the next meeting to address this question. Technology will be leveraged as much as possible.

Mr. McDaniel added that the network inventory is important and perhaps everyone could submit the networking groups they are involved in to assist in the task force outreach. These networks could be a critical piece to leverage.

Mr. White supported this idea. He also likes Dr. Hoadley's idea of engaging top influencers/leaders in the community to engage, sending a survey to or engage in some manner. If everyone could send names in, a list could be generated to revisit at the next meeting.

Ms. Franklin suggested all this information be in one place – perhaps using Google docs.

Mr. Rayburn stated that including other organizations could help maximize and authenticate what we are trying to achieve.

Ms. Puranik stated that Microsoft Teams is the communication method the City uses, but we have various ways to engage.

Next Meeting

Mr. McDaniel noted that polling might work best in terms of meetings -- to find out what evenings or other times of day work best. This is a voluntary effort, so if a member cannot attend a particular meeting, that is understood. He asked for input on the task force's desire for frequency of meetings.

Mr. Amponsah stated that once a month or every other month works well. Quarterly meetings would be too spaced out. It is important to keep this moving.

Mr. Shoji stated once a month initially in order to keep the momentum, and recognizing that time outside of the meetings may be necessary for task force work.

Mr. White agreed. For the next meeting, one of the action items is the idea of pulling together focus groups or surveys. Perhaps a draft of what a survey might look like could be reviewed at the next meeting. The task force could then fine-tune it to get it out quickly. It will drive conversations and dialogue.

Mr. McDaniel noted that staff's commitment is to work issues in between meetings. A monthly schedule allows time to prepare for the next meeting. He agrees with the need to have a list of groups to reach out to via survey. Staff will provide some ideas for that at the next meeting.

Ms. Mariea asked how the task force should request information from the City. She read the memo provided about Diversity & Inclusion, but it would be useful to know about the diversity of income in the City and the housing stock – rental versus ownership – and broken down by income/race. How should the task force make requests to staff going forward?

Mr. McDaniel responded that a group e-mail should be sent and staff will respond that it was received. Copying everyone in e-mails provides sharing of what others are asking.

Ms. Smith noted she appreciates all the help the City has given to families in the community in need. Having that information would be helpful for all task force members as well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.



Clerk of Council