

REAL ESTATE & HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

3:30pm

Zoom Meeting

Call to Order

Bradley Hurlburt, co-chair of the Real Estate & Housing Subcommittee of the Mayor's Task Force for Racial & Ethnic Equality, called the meeting to order at 3:44 pm. The meeting began late due to technical difficulties. Tiffany David, of the City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office, took attendance of participants for the meeting record. Antoine Wright, co-chair, welcomed all Subcommittee members to the meeting. Kayla Elson, of Justice & Sustainability Associates, introduced Emma Lipsky, of Justice & Sustainability Associates who will be taking notes. Kayla Elson then reviewed the meeting agenda.

December Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

City Commission Meeting

On January 25, Task Force co-chairs Michelle Diffenderfer and Patrick Franklin gave an update to the City Commission of Task Force and subcommittee activities, and the top two initial subcommittee priority areas. Since the Real Estate & Housing subcommittee members did not have a chance to meet prior to the meeting, the Real Estate & Housing co-chairs met and decided based on the subcommittee members' December conversation, there was a fair amount of alignment of priorities that came out of the Action Summit, so those were chosen to present. However, the co-chairs still wanted to have a discussion to make sure everyone was on the same page. The presentation is available on the city website. In addition, subcommittee meetings will become open to public participation. June 12 was chosen as the next Action Summit date.

Confirming Subcommittee Initial Priority Areas

Subcommittee members reviewed the results from initial priority areas from the Summit, 50% of the people picked the two priorities listed, other priority areas had 14%-15% of votes. Michael Odum, Subcommittee member, wanted to address what causes homeowners to not retain their homes and the demographics of that information.



Mayor's Task Force for Racial & Ethnic Equality

Subcommittee Data & Resources

Subcommittee members discussed what other data would be needed to address the initial two priorities. Subcommittee members agreed that a site visit to communities and seeing public housing would be helpful. Maricela Torres, Subcommittee Member, elaborated more on the harsh housing conditions that people from her community are living in. Code enforcement was heavily discussed, with agreement that while it is there to help protect residents, it can become costly. Subcommittee members want to find more organizations/groups that help community members with code enforcement issues. A database of all the West Palm Beach permit and renters of properties would be helpful too. Key people giving presentations such as someone from the city Code Enforcement, Housing department, or banking field can answer the members' questions. Money distributed to housing in the city and its demographic breakdowns would also be helpful to understand the disparities there.

Discussion: Grounding in Priority Areas

Subcommittee members were in agreement with the priority areas chosen, and once the necessary data is retrieved, members can begin working on addressing the two initial priority areas.

Next Steps

Project team will get the necessary data for the Subcommittee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm by Subcommittee Co-Chair Antoine Wright. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 3:30pm on Zoom.



Mayor's Task Force for Racial & Ethnic Equality

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Bradley Hurlburt, Subcommittee Co-Chair
Antoinne Wright, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Ontario Davis Johnson, Subcommittee Member
Parisa Hamzetash, Subcommittee Member
Michael Odum, Subcommittee member
Maricela Torres, Subcommittee Member

Tiffany David, City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office
Kayla Elson, Justice & Sustainability Associates
Emma Lipsky, Justice & Sustainability Associates

Absent:

Ezra Gene Saffold, Subcommittee Member