

REAL ESTATE & HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 17, 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 3:33 pm. Tiffany David, of the City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office, took attendance of participants for the meeting record. Tiffany David then introduced guest speaker Dr. Alisha R. Winn.

February Meeting Minutes

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

Discussion: Housing & Community Development in Historic Northwest

Guest speaker Dr. Alisha R. Winn introduced herself more in depth. Dr. Alisha R. Winn is the Owner and Founder of the firm Consider the Culture. She is also an applied cultural anthropologist and is a professor of anthropology at Palm Beach Atlantic University. Dr. Winn is currently a consultant for the Community Redevelopment Agency which is currently renovating the Sunset Lounge and its surrounding areas. She ensures there is preservation in the presentation of the culture in the Northwest neighborhood area, which she is also a resident of. Subcommittee members asked Dr. Winn questions about the work she does, how residents envision housing in the Northwest area in the future, and how she established trust with residents in the area. Dr. Winn confirmed that the residents in the Northwest want to see redevelopment/progress in their neighborhood, but not at the expense of their displacement. Dr. Winn said it took her around three years to establish trust with the area residents, and she did so by first observing and then consistently attending community events and meetings (visiting the Sunset Lounge frequently). By then they knew who she was and felt comfortable with her.

Presentation: Community Reinvestment Act

Tiffany David then introduced Mr. Craig Glover and Mr. Glover introduced himself more in depth. Mr. Glover is the Executive Director of North End Rise. His aim is directing a holistic approach to achieving racial equity and building a community in the north end of the city. Mr. Glover moved to West Palm Beach six years ago and took on this assignment to get to know the community members so he could serve them better. He started out with the seniors so they could teach him more about their community. He is creating a 20-page strategic plan based on community feedback about how they want to



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see this area improve in terms of housing, employment, education, etc. He noted the divide between the west and east side and is trying to bridge the divide by letting residents get to know each other. Mr. Glover will speak more at the next meeting.

Discussion

Tiffany David asked the group about their thoughts and ideas they have about what the city could be doing better to support a wide range of residents, particularly in areas of the cities where it's 90% renters. Also, what types of policies would be helpful and/or supportive for the kinds of communities we'd like to see moving forward. Subcommittee members made comments on the barriers of economic (and racial) discrimination, if the city was doing enough on its end to provide clear avenues for renters to become homeowners and if there was enough affordable housing available. Ownership of lots was also discussed, whether these lots had to be renovated or if there is a cutoff point. Tiffany David clarified details about city-owned/sold lots but will leave it to code enforcement people to speak to private lot ownership. Kayla Elson noted that a member of the public commented about Bert Harris property laws making it impossible to do anything with private land.

Next Steps: Upcoming Meeting & June 12th Action Summit

The subcommittee meeting organizers are looking to add an additional meeting to calendar next month (April) to accommodate certain schedules and to have a panel for affordable housing. The first meeting will be Wednesday, April 14th, from 3 – 4:30 pm and the second meeting will Wednesday, April 21st, from 3:30 – 5 pm (normal meeting).

To prepare for the upcoming June 12th Action Summit, subcommittee members will be given collaterals to help support advertisement. Subcommittee members will be providing support in content development for the Summit because there will be five rounds of breakout rooms dedicated to each policy area. Kayla Elson and Tiffany David are working with the subcommittee co-chairs to create a presentation about what the subcommittee has accomplished so far and what needs to be done. Subcommittee members are responsible for figuring out what input they want from the community to support their work.

Adjournment

Atoinne Wright, subcommittee co-chair, enjoyed the conversation. He thanked the guest speakers for their insights/thoughts, as well as subcommittee members for their input. Bradley Hurlburt, subcommittee co-chair, requested that the two priority areas be re-reviewed at the next meeting and to compile a list of policies/suggestions to help keep focus on where the subcommittee is going.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm by Subcommittee Co-Chair Antoinne Wright. The next meeting will be on April 14th, 2021 at 3:00pm on Zoom.



Mayor's Task Force for Racial & Ethnic Equality

ATTENDANCE

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Alisha R. Winn
Mr. Craig Glover

Present:

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

Parisa Hamzetash, Subcommittee Member
Ontario Davis Johnson, Subcommittee Member
Michael Odum, Subcommittee member
Ezra Gene Saffold, Subcommittee Member

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

Absent:

Maricela Torres, Subcommittee Member