

Champaign County Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday February 25, 2016
6:30 pm

I. Call to Order

Facilitator Samuel Byndom called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Sara Balgoyen, Lynn Branham, Kimberley Bryan, Pamela Burnside, Brenda Butts, Samuel Byndom, Alex Evans, Amy Felty, David Harber, Ryan Hughes, Artice James, Esther Patt, Henry Ross, Kevin Schneider, Susan Silver, Demario Turner, Francena Turner, Gerald Walter, Rosita Byrd

Members Absent: Maryam Ar-Raheem, Walter Feinberg, Carolyn Randolph, (Alt) Ellyn Dee.

III. Approval of Agenda

Esther Patt moved to accept the agenda. Kevin Schneider seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Kevin Schneider moved that to approve the amended minutes. Sara Balgoyen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

V. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

VI. Meeting Rules

Esther Patt moved to adopt Robert's Rules of Order (RRO). Kevin Schneider seconded the motion. Kevin Schneider moved to adopt the County Board standard of 5 minutes per person and 60-minute total limit for public participation. Brenda Butts seconded the motion. Lynn Branham and Alex Evans expressed concern about the adoption of RRO stifling organic conversation. Kevin Schneider and David Haber noted that there is space within RRO for free-flowing discussion. Due to the concerns raised, Kevin Schneider moved to table the adoption of RRO until the next meeting. Brenda Butts seconded the motion. Francena Turner said that she did not want to table the vote when simplified versions of RRO are available online. Pamela Burnside, Kevin Schneider, Kim Bryan, and Esther Patt suggested we adopt RRO and amend them later if need be. Brenda Butts indicated that she wanted to see them first. The motion to table adopting RRO until the next meeting carried. The motion to adopt the County Board's standard of 5 minutes per person and 60-minute total time limit for public participation carried.

VII. Communication & Outreach

Kevin Schneider moved to open discussion and Ryan Hughes seconded it. Several members suggested various modes of task force and community communication to include: public meetings held in various parts of the county, Dropbox, Google Docs, a Facebook page, a website, a RJTF email account, and the county board's website. David Harber expressed concern about sharing copyright protected readings publically. Kim Bryan asked who would manage social media/web based spaces. Amy Felty expressed concern about open meetings regulations. Artice James moved to go to the County Board and request that there be a public comment section added to the task force page/section. Lynn Branham seconded the motion. Amy Felty and

Artice James volunteered to investigate these concerns (public comments section, open meetings requirements, the task force establishing its own email,) and share their findings at the next meeting. The motion carried.

VIII. Development of Mission Statement

Sara Balgoyen suggested that volunteers take on the mission statement and report back to the group. Esther Patt suggested that the focus be on what we want to accomplish within our timeframe and the structure of the task force. Kevin Schneider suggested that the focus be on racial disparities in the criminal justice system without taking anything off the table. Kim suggested the statement remain broad. After some discussion on specific wording, the following mission statement was drafted:

The Champaign County Racial Justice Task Force seeks to address causes and impact of racial disparities in the jail population and in the criminal justice system more broadly. It will report findings and a list of recommendations to the County Board and community. It is committed to working with all members of the public.

Kevin Schneider moved that this mission statement be adopted. Kim Bryan seconded the motion. Sara Balgoyen expressed concern that the word “jail” limits the work. Brenda Butts, Pamela Burnside, Amy Felty, and Kimberley Bryan expressed concerns about other structural issues not being included in the mission statement such as education, housing, and policing. Esther Patt, Kevin Schneider, and Francena Turner argued that the terms “causes and impact” encompassed those concerns. The motion carried.

IX. Determination of Meeting Days, Times, and Location

Kevin Schneider moved to adopt the meeting schedule as written with the times changed to 6:30-8:30 p.m.) Rosita Byrd seconded the motion. After discussion about other possible rooms and meeting days, the motion carried.

X. Suggested Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

- A. Role Call/Introductions
- B. Subcommittees/ Public Meetings (Town Hall like)
- C. Feedback from Artice/Amy Communications
- D. Logistical Support/Interns
- E. Suggested Guests/Readings
- F. Member comments
- G. Adoption of meeting rules/parliamentarian

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.