

Champaign County Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 2017
6:30 pm

I. Call to Order

Sara Balgoyen called the meeting to order at 6:40.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: S. Byndom, M. Ar-Raheem, S. Balgoyen, L. Branham, E. Dee, A. Felty, R. Hughes, A. James, S. Lerner, E. Patt, S. Silver, D. Turner, G. Walter.

Members Absent: C. Randolph, H. Ross.

III. Approval of Agenda

Gerry Walter moved to approve agenda. Susan Silver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Gerry moved to approve the minutes. Esther Patt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

V. Public Participation

Dottie Vura-Weis

Dottie said congratulations on getting a cohesive report together. She also clarified the details of the notification system being used by the Circuit Clerk and she apologized for misleading the task force into thinking the process in place was further along than it actually was.

James Kilgore

James noted how amazing and difficult a journey this process was. James said that this process is of national importance and that he wants to look into getting national media coverage for our final report.

VI. Presentations

There were no presentations at this time.

VII. New Business

The group began working through edits and suggestions made to the final report. Amy raised an issue about the recommendations of the Voices of the Community section not being included in the list of recommendations up front. She presented a revision to be included in the report:

A. "In addition, an eighth subsection of the RJTF, Voices of the Community, gathered information from community members concerning their lives and opportunities in Champaign County. Eighteen of their recommendations were included in this report."

Sara wants to add the two sentences that Amy tendered to the Summary of Recommendations.

Esther disagreed that the 18 recommendations should be included in the list of the task force's recommendations. Maryam asked why we are not acknowledging the people who were interviewed. Artice also thought that the Voices of the Community would be included in the front of the report. Demario wanted to echo the need to reference the Voices of Community members in the front of the report. The group discussed the best way to include the Voices section earlier on in the report. Another revision was suggested:

B. Page 13 – at the end of the sentence "...experiences. Some of their recommendations are included in the Voices in the Community section."

Esther moved to accept the changes proposed by Sara (see A and B). Demario seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Maryam thanked Sara for her work. She also shared edits and the group discussed them.

Esther moved to accept the changes above. Demario seconded. The motion carried.

Esther moved to accept her edits, not including the revision to the housing recommendation, including moving "some programs" earlier in the restorative justice paragraph, and including a revision to the overarching recommendation, to strike the last sentence under Failure to Appear (page 32) and to revise the recommendation #4 on page 35 and in the summary of recommendations (page 7) to read:

"Follow best practices to ensure that all criminal defendants receive automated reminders the day before each court appearance."

Demario seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Lynn moved to accept her revisions to the acknowledgements and revision to the Summary of Recommendations paragraph on page 5, her revision to recommendation 2. under Fees and Costs recommendations, her revision to recommendation #1 under Juvenile Justice along with Maryam and Sara's edits, revisions to the conclusion: "need not be overly costly compared to the human cost when compared to status quo", and to the last sentence in second to last paragraph.

The motion was seconded by Susan. The motion carried.

Maryam congratulated Demario for being appointed to the Champaign Police Review Board.

A. Vote Final Report Sections

Sara asked for a motion to accept the final report with the edits established herein. Gerry so moved. Esther seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Sara and Ryan discussed steps for making the accepted edits and for disseminating the final report to the public.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.