

**City of Cleveland Heights
Racial Justice Task Force
July 28th, 2021
Public Meeting**

Members Present

Sherlynn Allen-Harris
Gary Benjamin
Nate Berkey
Demetrius Cheeks
Mario Clopton Zymler
Barbara Danforth
Mandy Colvin
Rhonda Davis Lovejoy (Chair)
Ashley Demyan
Reggie Evans
Lisa Hunt
Kalia Johnson
Taylor Jones
Rosa Kovacevich
Akshai Singh
Calvin Singleton
Michael Windom

Members Absent

Ron Register
Kasia Bufford
Laura Collier
Angelique Gates
Robert Lampley
Lisa Smith
Randall Walker

Staff Present

Brian Iorio
Steve Barker

CHPD Liason Present

Det. Riffe

Call To Order

Chair Davis Lovejoy called the meeting to order. Secretary Demetrius Cheeks called the roll; a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Davis Lovejoy stated that approval of the June minutes will be postponed until the next meeting. Brian Iorio stated that there needs to be proper notice for members to review before approval.

Public Comments

There were no members of the public present to make a public comment. Anyone wishing to send public comment to the Racial Justice Task Force without coming in person can do so by calling city staff member Brian Iorio at 216-291-4845 or by emailing him at biorio@clvhts.com.

Bylaws

Chair Davis Lovejoy thanked Gary Benjamin for writing the first draft of the bylaws. She then asked for questions, comments, revisions, or suggestions from members.

Rosa Kovacevich asked if agendas will be determined by the executive committee. Ms. Davis Lovejoy explained that subcommittees will be given tasks and each committee will determine how those tasks are best completed.

Lisa Hunt asked about subcommittees being added or modified by vote. Ms. Davis Lovejoy explained that the subcommittees in place now in the bylaws were put in place as a framework for the task force to get started with.

Mario suggested doing some semantic work. He suggested edits for gender fluidity to identify referenced parties on the task force. Mario asked a question about the verbiage for meeting in person requirements. Brian responded by saying it would be good to have in there in case the need arises, and it is allowed by state law.

Mario suggested adding language about subcommittees including when and how they meet, the work being done, and nonmembers' ability to contribute to subcommittees.

Lisa Hunt added that some of the language could become an encumbrance for subcommittees and as a method of transparency notes and/or recordings should be taken during each subcommittee meeting for public record.

Rosa asked about subcommittee meeting notification for the public. Brian responded by saying to send an email to him so that it can be posted to the City's website for public notice. A link will also be posted for the meeting to be viewed. Kalia Johnson suggested setting meetings up via Zoom with access to Facebook live.

Discussion about the head of each subcommittee resulted in this head to be referred to as leader selected by the subcommittee members. This person would be responsible for communication with the Chair and Vice Chair and lead agendas ensuring assigned work is being done as expected. All other duties and definitions will be defined more in the workplan.

Rosa asked about amending bylaws. Mario responded by saying amendments can be emailed 7 days prior to meeting. Subcommittee chairs can discuss among subcommittees before the vote at a general meeting.

Barbara Danforth asked about the law department reviewing bylaws. Brian responded to this saying that he does not believe it is a requirement, but it is a good idea.

Barbara Danforth moves to adopt the bylaws. Sherlynn Allen-Harris seconded. Voice vote initiated by Chair Davis Lovejoy. The motion passed 17-0-0.

Subcommittees

Chair Davis Lovejoy stated that subcommittees are open to all members. All activities in subcommittees are at the discretion of the members involved. No activity is considered to be a requirement.

Mario asked each subcommittee to determine what data is needed from the city for them to complete their work and to inform him or Chair Davis Lovejoy.

The Task Force determined that the subcommittees should be combined, resulting in three subcommittees: Public Safety; Health, Wellness, and Education; and Housing And Economic Opportunities.

Next, members were asked to raise their hands if they would like to serve on any of these subcommittees. The subcommittee members at the time of the meeting were as follows:

- Public Safety
 - Michael Windom
 - Lisa Hunt
 - Akshai Singh
 - Kalia Johnson
 - Ashley Demyan
 - Rosa Kovacevich
 - Barbara Danforth
 - Calvin Singleton
 - Demetrius Cheeks
 - Robert Lampley
- Heath, Wellness, and Education
 - Sherlynn Allen-Harris
 - Nate Berkey
 - Taylor Jones
 - Mandy Colvin
 - Lisa Hunt
 - Ron Register
- Housing and Economic Opportunities
 - Reggie Evans
 - Akshai Singh
 - Gary Benjamin
 - Barbara Danforth
 - Nate Berkey
 - Rosa Kovacevich
 - Kalia Johnson

Closing Remarks

Chair Davis Lovejoy stated that the next general meeting will be on 8/25/2021. All subcommittees are to meet on or before 8/18/2021. The Chair said that she will contact Task Force members that are not present in order to place them on the three subcommittees.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Rhonda Davis Lovejoy, Chair

Demetrius Cheeks, Secretary