

**City of Cleveland Heights
Racial Justice Task Force
August 25th, 2021
Public Meeting**

Members Present

Gary Benjamin
Ron Register
Demetrius Cheeks
Mario Clopton Zymler
Mandy Colvin
Rhonda Davis Lovejoy (Chair)
Ashley Demyan
Reggie Evans
Lisa Hunt
Kalia Johnson
Rosa Kovacevich
Robert Lampley
Akshai Singh
Calvin Singleton
Lisa Smith
Michael Windom

Members Absent

Sherylynn Allen-Harris
Nate Berkey
Kasia Bufford
Laura Collier
Barbara Danforth
Angelique Gates
Taylor Jones
Randall Walker

Staff Present

Brian Iorio
Steve Barker

CHPD Liaison Present

Cpt Britton

Call To Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from the Racial Justice Task Force meeting minutes of 6/24/21 and 7/28/21 by Akshai Singh. Motion seconded by Rosa Kovacevich. The motion passed 16-0-0.

Public Comment

Fran Mint discussed information about the addition of a park on Lee Road, in the area of Tullamore Rd and Meadowbrook Rd. Her mission is to create a world in which 100% of people in U.S. cities have safe access to a quality park or green space within a 10-minute walk of home by 2050. For further information or other inquiries reach out to cedarleepark@yahoo.com.

Bylaws

Chairperson Davis Lovejoy asks the taskforce for any suggestions or recommendations on bylaws. Brian made final amendments. A question was raised by Rosa asking for clarification on meeting attendance requirements of members. After discussion, it was amended to leave at the discretion of the Chair and Vice-Chair for determination if there is a need to request council to remove a member for lack of attendance. Absence notifications can be sent to any one on the executive committee or city staff.

Motion to approve Bylaws as amended by Rosa Kovacevic. Second my Akshai Singh. The motion passed 16-0-0.

Subcommittees

Chairperson Davis Lovejoy announced there will be a twenty-five-minute breakout period with the subcommittees, followed by a report from each subcommittee.

Health, Wellness & Education

Sherlynn Allen-Harris with the assistance of Lisa Hunt is taking the lead on this committee. This committee plans to meet one hour before each full task force meeting. They are currently in the process of reviewing legislature and plan to look at the collaborations of the local education system and review their activities along with other public and private schools in districts around the region as it relates to racial equity. They also plan to possibly create something that highlights healthcare institutions in the area.

Housing & Economic Opportunity

Gary Benjamin will be the chair for this subcommittee. Proposed outcomes were discussed, and they include looking at issues around tenants, access to resources for renters, looking into resources for the homeless center, and support economic business development of minority owned businesses. They plan to create digestible and accessible information, possibly in the form of a helpful guide full of resources. A request for the subcommittee to meet with The Cleveland Heights Housing Department will occur soon. Their next meeting is on September 15, 2021. The Greater Cleveland Coalition is scheduled to be at in attendance to present information.

Public Safety

Robert Lampley will be the chair of this subcommittee. The plan is to meet the second Wednesday of every other month with the next meeting being September 8, 2021. At this meeting a work plan will be made to prioritize tasks over the next few months and divide the tasks among each member. A report will be provided at each full meeting of the taskforce detailing progress of the subcommittee.

Closing Remarks

Chairperson Rhonda Davis Lovejoy closed the meeting by saying she plans to develop a Google drive collaborate on documents and share resources. Any members in need of assistance with resources or having individuals present at meetings can check with Brian to see who he has listed as a contact person.

Motion for adjournment by Gary Benjamin. Motion seconded by Kalia Johnson.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Rhonda Davis Lovejoy, Chair

Demetrius Cheeks, Secretary