

# **African American Equity Restoration Task Force**

**Community Empowerment** 

# **Regular Meeting**

http://knoxvilletn.gov

~ Minutes~

Monday, November 14, 2022

5:00 PM

**Knoxville Area Urban League** 

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

## 2. ROLL CALL

Task Force members: Underwood, Olum, Lyons, McKenzie, Porter, Fitzgerald-Baker, Taylor, Harbin (5:17 p.m.), Olds (5:21 p.m.)

Staff: Lomax, Toombs, intern Jordan Jamison

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Monday, October 10, 2022

# 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EXTRAORDINARY MATTERS

Phyllis Nichols, KAUL President and CEO

- -Service/mission oriented; does have capacity to assist AAERT with fiduciary responsibilities
- -Familiar with compliance requirements with federal funds
- -Would ensure that funding being sought would be consistent with the KAUL projects and would seek funding on that basis
- -HUD certified counseling provider; active in the rescue funds with County and City

### 5. STAFF REPORT

### a. Personnel Changes

**Report** - Lomax: introduced Jordan Jameson (UT Junior, Sociology major); send additional suggestions to Tiffani re: list of entities in the handout; Lomax is leaving for KAUL on 12/12 and gave thanks;

**Discussion**: Underwood

# b. Project(s) Update

**Report** - Lomax: still working with National League of Cities; had a meeting in May in Birmingham, AL; another meeting will be in Atlanta, GA between 12/12-12/14; Tiffany will be going with Mayor as well as other City staff members; still working on becoming a city for empowerment – RFP to find an organization to help with financial counselors has been drafted and will be published around the turn of the year

### c. Grants Report

Report - Lomax: Tiffani Toombs has been identifying opportunities

Toombs: references summary paper – 3 grants.

Cultural and community resilience grant – to mitigate COVID-19 and environmental issues, collecting cultural heritage, etc. – will partner with Beck (ceiling \$150k, 1/12/2023 deadline, 15 awards). This application is on Council's agenda for 11/29.

Supportive housing for elderly grant -62+ low income seniors in rental context (1/25/2023 deadline; millions; nonprofit has to apply, so maybe partnering with someone in the summary).

Self-help homeownership opportunity program grant – innovative home ownership for low income folks (\$12.5 million, 1/23/2023 deadline, also must be a 501c3 to apply).

Ideas for nonprofit partnerships: KAUL, CAC Project Live, Salvation Army, Home Source, KLF, and KCDC (for both supportive housing and self-help home ownership grants)

Process: Tiffany identifies financial opportunities, sends info to Investment Committee (and/or to full AAERT), send to Investment Committee (at minimum; if time allows, then AAERT too). Process will vary depending on whether the grant is done through the City or a nonprofit.

Motion: empower Tiffany to submit to Council and to draft an submit application obo TF with consultation with the Investment Committee. (Harbin, 2<sup>nd</sup> McKenzie, unanimous voice vote).

Motion: cancel December meeting, as Toombs will be in Atlanta at National League of Cities conference, and Lomax will be at KAUL (Taylor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fitzgerald-Baker, unanimous voice vote). Note: Lomax recommended that committees still meet in December to keep things moving.

Discussions: Underwood, Harbin, Lyons, Taylor, Olds, Fitzgerald-Baker, McKenzie

### 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a. Executive

**Report** – Fitzgerald-Baker: Questions that the Committee considered included (1) What is the City providing that we want to make sure continues? and (2) Term limits? and (3) Contract services for the role Charles provides (depends on the answer to #1). Asked Lomax to send a list of the services he provides to the AAERT.

### b. Community Engagement

Report – From Best (given via email by Lomax): event on 2/18 (makeup date 2/23); one of many events, partner with agencies like KAUL and The Bottom; Committee to draft documents and bring them to AAERT for review. McKenzie asked about location; Lomax said that Vine Middle gym (plus 2 classrooms) was the plan for last February (note that paperwork and authorization are required). Olds suggested Boys & Girls Club on Broadway. Fitzgerald-Baker discussed The Change Center. Event: 5 hours, so have booths and the buckets approach for people who can't be there the whole time. Structure of the day is TBD; encouragement is for AAERT to send suggestions to staff. Lomax provided notes on the plan for the February 2022 event, which ultimately did not happen, as a starting point. Some desire expressed to change the time from 5 hours to 3 hours.

<u>Discussion</u> – Fitzgerald-Baker, Underwood, McKenzie

c. Investment

<u>Report</u> – Olds: outlining strategic investment framework to have an action list; discussed grants Tiffani had identified.

### 7. PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Election of Officers

<u>Report</u> – Lomax: adopted Art. IV, Sec. 1 in September. Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary; chosen at annual meeting. We need a Vice Chair and Assistant Secretary. Nominations for Vice Chair – Matthew Best; Nomination for Assistant Secretary – Stanley Taylor. Gwen McKenzie to be third alternate.

b. Term Limits

**Report** – Lomax: Bylaws at Art. IV, Sec. 11. Executive Committee proposes the following roll-off schedule

In 2024 - Lyons, Harbin, Olum

In 2025 - Underwood, Olds, McKenzie, Porter

In 2026 - Fitzgerald-Baker, Miller, Best, and Taylor

Switch Miller and Porter? Fitzgerald-Baker's suggestion.

Motion: to approve as amended with Fitzgerald-Baker's suggestion (Miller rolling off in 2025 and Porter rolling off in 2026) (McKenzie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Taylor, unanimous voice vote)

c. Investment Committee Language

Report - Lomax read language aloud

Motion: to add (motion and second, unanimous voice vote)

# 8. PUBLIC FORUM

# 9. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: January 9th at 5:00pm at TBD