

# African American Equity Restoration Task Force

**Community Empowerment** 

## **Regular Meeting**

http://knoxvilletn.gov

~ Agenda ~

Monday, September 12, 2022

5:00 PM

Pellissippi State Community College

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 2. ROLL CALL

Present: Porter, Fitzgerald-Baker, Taylor, Underwood, McKenzie, Miller, Best

Arrived at 5:25: Olum (arrived during Reconnecting Communities Grant

Presentation)

Arrived at 5:30: Olds (arrived during Reconnecting Communities Grant Discussion)

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Monday, July 11, 2022

Motion: Best. 2nd: Taylor

Vote: Passed on Unanimous Voice Vote

# 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EXTRAORDINARY MATTERS

Reconnecting Communities Grant – Marisa Moazen and Erin Gill – See packet for more details

<u>Federal Grant Opportunity</u> – Because it comes from the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, funds must be used for projects related to infrastructure. Furthermore, any money received from the grant must be used for capital construction costs, not for an already operating project. It is possible to reapply in future years, even if this grant is successfully received.

Knoxville Application – Receiving the grant requires a 50% match from local sources

<u>The Preliminary Idea</u> – A greenway starting at the Knoxville Botanical Gardens and stretching throughout communities in East Knoxville adversely impacted by the James White Parkway.

<u>Public Input</u> – Assessments and focus groups conducted with East Knoxville residents over the past five years are being used in the application

**DISCUSSION**: McKenzie, Underwood, Fitzgerald-Baker, Best, Miller, Olds

### Topics:

1. Figuring out how the proposed Reconnecting Communities project aligns with the goals of the Task Force. Highlights culture, increases connectivity between residents within East Knoxville, and can improve health outcomes of those using the greenway.

2. Marisa Moazen asked that a member of the Task Force sit on the Community Advisory Committee and that the Task Force provide a letter expressing their approval of the project. Olds to be the representative. Task Force voted 9-0 in a unanimous voice vote to send the representative and provide support in a letter. The Task Force will be listed on the grant.

#### 5. STAFF REPORT

a. Tiffani Toombs, Grant Specialist

Charles Lomax presented status: Tiffani Toombs began last week, but could not be in attendance at this meeting. Ms. Toombs was able to attend a grant-writing seminar last week. Dr. Lomax proposed that members of the Task Force individually meet with Ms. Toombs to highlight their goals for the Task Force.

b. Fiscal Partner

Charles Lomax proposed having a representative from both the United Way and the Urban League be present during October's Task Force meeting to discuss what a fiscal partnership with each organization would look like.

#### 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee reports, but meeting days and times were established:

- a. Executive: First Monday of the month at 5pm
- b. Community Engagement: First Monday of the month at 5pm
- c. Investment: First Monday of the month at 6pm

#### 7. PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

a. Adoption of By-Laws

Motion made by M. Best; seconded by A. Olds - Bylaws adopted by a unanimous voice vote 9-0.

Investment Committee section of the bylaws to be amended after the committee next meets.

# 8. PUBLIC FORUM – no one signed up

#### ADJOURNMENT – All discussion notes are available if needed.

Motion: Motion made by Porter; 2nd: Miller

Passed on voice vote at 6:16 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 10 at 5:00pm at Pellissippi State Community College