

MINUTES
Constituency and Community Outreach
Subcommittee – Empowerment of Marginalized Communities
Mayor Donna Deegan Transition

Meeting 4

Date: August 1, 2023

Location: Jewish Family & Community Services, 8540 Baycenter Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32256

Welcome:

Co-Chairs: Whitney Meyer and Melanie Patz called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm

***NOTE:** The posted meeting notice listed the old ZOOM Sign-in and not the current Teams Log-in; on-line participants needed to be redirected to get them logged in.*

In Attendance:

Chair: Parvez Ahmed; Madison Hilt, Kiaria Nixon, Cindy Watson, Rosemary McCoy

Via Teams: Anny Leon, Andrea Reyes, Jimmy Midyette, Omega Allen, Rev. Reginald Gundy, Manny Velasquez, Janis Fleet

Check-In on Current Assignments:

- There were no reported challenges in getting data to support written recommendations. The City of Jacksonville may be able to supply certain types of data, if there are no resources available. The Jacksonville Parks and Recreation Department sent some data to Rev. Gundy and the Chair will forward to Melanie, who will then make available to the subcommittee.
- No need to worry about using a particular format for the reports, the Chair will collect recommendations from all of the subcommittees and format them into one overall report.
- Reports are due to the subcommittee chairs next Tuesday (8/8/23)
- The full subcommittee report is due to the Chair by August 15, 2023.
- If things/issues/concerns/recommendations don't get included in the report, perhaps they can go to the "parking lot" and be revisited later.

Review New Recommendations and Make Assignments:

NOTE: New recommendations are listed in a bulleted format, the bullets have been numbered for purposes of aligning them in the minutes.

1. U2C Skyway Project – after discussion it was determined that this recommendation was a better fit with the Infrastructure Committee and will be forwarded for their consideration.
2. The City of Jacksonville (COJ) should use the services provided by various organizations around the city. As an example, the Jewish Community Alliance (JCA) offers its services to anyone of any background. The JCA maintains excellent sports and after-school programs for children. The city could benefit from utilizing some of its services in order to fulfill some of its commitments to the residents of the city.

- This was discussed at the Interfaith Relations Subcommittee Meeting 7/31/23. This would be a good connection to make and it's a nice fit with the work of the Empowering Marginalized Communities Subcommittee – especially the lifeguard pipeline. “The city could work with JCA to engage some of the JCA lifeguards when they are not working at the JCA Pools.”
3. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion should study the examples of other cities which have developed initiatives for addressing issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.
 - There is no Office of Diversity and Inclusion, as such, therefore, a recommendation could be made to build out an office. A big concern is how will the work of outreach to the various constituencies look like? How will the work be done?
 - When putting forward your recommendation for an Office of Diversity and Inclusion, consider developing job descriptions for an Outreach Coordinator. A minimum of three (3) Coordinators should be recommended: Faith-based Coordinator; an LGBTQ+ Coordinator and a Coordinator for the Hispanic Community.
 - Currently press releases are not translated into Spanish.

The LGBTQ+ and Spanish-Speaking communities have specific needs that are not being met elsewhere

- Be judicious in making the case for specialized outreach coordinators, because each group will want to make a case.
4. Vacant/underutilized property of religious institutions and other non-profits should be used for community needs like affordable housing and recreation.
 - After discussion, it was decided that the issue of vacant properties might be a better fit with the Housing Committee – i.e., Sulzbacher, Urban Rest Stop is a better fit with the Non-Profit Subcommittee. The Chair will speak with Tracye Polson
 5. The City should expand the resources it commits for unhoused people and those with mental health challenges. The City could be the convener or ombudsperson to make the connections that individuals need to function in society. The city can work with organizations (such as the United Way) to get the word out.
 - This recommendation will also be referred to Tracye Polson and the subcommittee dealing with mental health, 988 Call Center, United Way all need more funding.

Recommendations from Angela Reyes:

1. Community ID's
 - a. Approve community ID's so that organizations/nonprofits can help marginalized populations in Jacksonville and have some sort of identification for healthy and safety reasons.
 - i. Will help various communities within the City or Community
 1. Children transitioning out of the foster care system
 2. Returning citizens while they get stabilized
 3. LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters in transition
 4. Recently arrived immigrants
2. Citizenship promotions:
 - a. Promote and provide grants to initiatives that support the naturalization process for legal permanent residents to organization/non-profits that provide instructional services in English as a Second Language (ESL) and U.S. History and Government, as well as the Naturalization process.

- i. The recommendation is for the City to be more involved in promoting the process of naturalization.
- 3. Minority Entrepreneurs are unable to get assistance without the proper paperwork and identification.
 - a. JSEB (Jacksonville Small and Emerging Businesses) has a 20% requirement that any grant/contract be spent on local businesses.
 - b. Dr. Omega Allen is working on this issue and can take a look at it.
 - c. In fact, Angela's Recommendations #3 and #7 go together and will be forwarded to Dr. Allen.
- 4. Diversity Social Media Account:
 - a. City social Media Account that exclusively focus and highlight the diversity and culture of our mosaic city.
 - i. Andrea will take on if the committee is interested in pursuing.
- 5. Formalize "We Are Duval" academic program at the JSO Cadet in other parts of our city government.
 - ii. After discussion, it was determined that this recommendation fall under Public Safety and will be forwarded to W.C. Gentry and L. Burton. Andrea will assist in developing.
- 6. Provide language access/interpretations at City Council meetings – especially Spanish and Haitian-Creole.
 - a. Spanish and Haitian-Creole represent the two largest foreign languages spoken in Jacksonville
 - i. This is another example that helps makes the case for why a Spanish Language Coordinator is needed.
 - ii. #6, 12 & 13 go together – and makes the case for a very robust Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- 7. Was referred to Dr. Allen.
- 8. Run Continuous Listening Tours/Listening Circles
 - a. Referred to another subcommittee.

Joey McKinnon's Recommendation:

- Adds to the rationale for a robust Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Closing Comments:

Next Tuesday – write-up are due: How/what/who/Budget should be the focus

If recommending additional Offices or Commission to keep in mind staff time needed to carry out the work being recommended.

Meeting Adjourned at 6 pm