



RACIAL EQUITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2022

CALL TO ORDER:

The Racial Equity Commission met in person at City Hall, in accordance with State and Federal guidelines. The meeting was called to order by Chair Kesha Hamilton.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Michael Johnson, John Willis, Kesha Hamilton, Jacob Inosencio, Freddie Dancy, and Jackie Barber.

Absent: Daveda Quinn

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Read by Chair Hamilton and will be read at every meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Commissioner Willis and seconded by Commissioner Johnson. Vote – Yeas: Commissioners Hamilton, Willis, Inosencio, Johnson, Barber, and Dancy. Nay: None, Motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

No Citizen Comment

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the previous meeting minutes by Commissioner Inosencio and seconded by Commissioner Willis. Vote – Yeas: Commissioners Hamilton, Willis, Inosencio, Johnson, Barber, and Dancy. Nay: None, Motion carried.

COMMUNITY LIAISON POLICE OFFICER REPORT:

Police Report given by Office Jason Y.

Three academy recruits were discussed as was the structure of academy training. Two officers in week long mental health crisis de-escalation training. Commissioner Hamilton asked about Department wide DEI Training. Commissioner Johnson asked about the reported on 1 to 2 hour department wide annual average of mental health training.

PRESENTATION:

Commissioner John Willis gave a report on Urban Renewal, the divestment from the south side due to red lining, and racist land acquisitions by the government. Loss of homeownership and lack of access to capital for home maintenance driving the lack of access to generational wealth was discussed. The resiliency of the community and the people being red-lined was noted and celebrated. The importance of reinvestment, including but not limited to the use of ARPA funds, and the importance that would have for driving racial Equity progress in the City of Jackson was discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Board Development Committee — Current: Freddie and Kesha, add John and Jackie
Policy and Procedure — Current: Freddie and Kesha
Contract and Purchasing — Current: Daveda, add Jackie
Nominating Committee — Current: Freddie, Kesha, and Daveda
Housing and Mobility — Current: Kesha and Daveda, add John and Jacob
Public Commission — Current: Kesha, add John, Jacob, and Michael
Grants — Jackie, add John and Jacob

Commission Hamilton asked for a motion to nominate Leticia Albarran to be recommended by the Mayor to the REC. Commission Inosencio moved, Commission Willis supported. Vote – Yeas: Commissioners Hamilton, Willis, Inosencio, Johnson, Barber, and Dancy. Nay: None, Motion carried.

Commission Willis moved to establish an education committee, Commission Barber seconded. Vote – Yeas: Commissioners Hamilton, Willis, Inosencio, Johnson, Barber, and Dancy. Nay: None, Motion carried. Kesha, Jacob, and John were added.

Discussion about the Jackson High Valedictorian guidelines and the historical and current racism embedded in standardized test scores.

Commission Willis moved to send a letter to the Jackson High Board of Education (amended) to inquire about the process of dropping down to one valedictorian. Commission Johnson seconded. Vote – Yeas: Commissioners Hamilton, Willis, Inosencio, Johnson, Barber, and Dancy. Nay: None, Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Racism commercial is waiting for all commissioners to be able to establish a date and include new members.

City ARPA funds use was discussed.

The 2022 Strategic plan/timeline for completion was discussed.

Commission Willis moved to adopt the strategic plan with amendments, Commission Barber seconded. Vote – Yeas: Commissioners Hamilton, Willis, Inosencio, Johnson, Barber, and Dancy. Nay: None, Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual report will be reviewed at the next meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Comments reflected collegiate alliances.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Inosencio moved to adjourn at 6:20pm Commissioner Barber seconded. Vote – Yeas: Commissioners Hamilton, Willis, Inosencio, Johnson, Barber, and Dancy. Nay: None, Motion carried.