

Howard County Council

Racial Equity Task Force



Meeting: Land-Use and Housing Policy Subgroup Meeting

Start Time: April 6, 2021 4:16 PM

End Time: April 6, 2021 5:20 PM

Task Force Member Attendees:

Jessica Coates
Suzanne Haley
Phillips Engelke
Ian Kennedy
Peter Engel
Isabella Battish
Vonda Orders
Taneeka Richardson

Task Force Members Not Present:

Herbert Smith
Jonathan Edelson

County Council and Facilitator Attendees:

Karla Morrison-Brooks, Groundwork Partners Facilitator
Lauren Marra, Groundwork Partners Facilitator
Felix Facchine, Council Staff
Kelli Berg, Council Staff

APPROVED Minutes:

Karla Morrison-Brooks, Task Force facilitator, opened the meeting with a roll call and confirmed that a quorum of subgroup members was present. Ms. Morrison-Brooks moved to approve the meeting minutes from the Land-Use and Housing Policy Subgroup meeting on March 9, 2021. Phil Engelke, Task Force member, seconded the motion to approve minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved by the subgroup members. After minutes approval, Ms. Coates made a point of personal privilege to recognize April as Fair Housing Month and celebrate the Fair Housing Act.

Ms. Morrison-Brooks, Task Force facilitator, began the meeting by reviewing meeting objectives with subgroup members. Ms. Morrison-Brooks then reviewed the next steps for the Task Force, including information on how the final report will be prepared, the second public hearing, and the process for recommendation development. Several subgroup members shared their desire for including more quantitative data and information in the final report. Ms. Coates expressed that there was existing research and data available in presentations from different County Departments that should be included in the report.

Following the discussion on upcoming steps for the Task Force, the subgroup discussed the draft recommendations under consideration. Task Force members discussed that a common theme of the

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Racial-Equity-Task-Force](https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/About-Us/Commissions-Task-Forces-and-Special-Reports/Racial-Equity-Task-Force)

recommendations is to move away from the single-family detached paradigm of housing in Howard County to encourage a more diverse and affordable type of housing unit in Howard County. Another area of focus is the community narrative and historical context of segregation and housing inequities in Howard County.

Following the overview of recommendation themes, the subgroup workshopped and refined one specific recommendation pertaining to removing political influence in the development approval process. Ian Kennedy, Task Force member, shared that the development approval process is currently very politicized and there is a need to re-focus the process on housing policy outcomes for the community. There was general agreement that the approval process should be focused on housing policy goals. Suzanne Haley, Task Force member, suggested legislative protocol to incorporate broad public opinion in the approval process to hear from a better cross-section of the community. Several members agreed with the suggestion to re-think how public opinion is considered in the development approval process. Ms. Morrison-Brooks suggested a review list for housing developments to determine its impact on racial equity. Task Force members discussed different options to better involve community members in the housing review process.

After discussing the recommendation, Ms. Morrison-Brooks encouraged subgroup members to continue refining their recommendations in non-quorum groups to prepare the recommendations for public review ahead of the second Public Hearing on May 6, 2021. Ms. Coates confirmed the date and time of the upcoming subgroup meeting on May 11, 2021 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

Ms. Coates thanked members of the subgroup for participating and adjourned the meeting at 5:20 PM.