

Howard County Council Racial Equity Task Force



Meeting: Land-Use and Housing Policy Subgroup Meeting

Start Time: May 11, 2021 4:12 PM

End Time: May 11, 2021 6:11 PM

Task Force Member Attendees:

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

Task Force Members Not Present:

Herbert Smith
Jonathan Edelson
Isabella Battish

County Council and Facilitator Attendees:

Lauren Marra, Groundwork Partners Facilitator
Felix Facchine, Council Staff
Kelli Berg, Council Staff

APPROVED Minutes:

Jessica Coates, Subgroup Chairperson, opened the meeting with a roll call and confirmed that a quorum of subgroup members was present. Ms. Coates moved to approve the meeting minutes from the Land-Use and Housing Policy Subgroup meeting on April 6, 2021. Peter Engel, Task Force member, seconded the motion to approve minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved by the subgroup members.

After minutes approval, Ms. Coates led a discussion of testimony given during the Racial Equity Task Force's Public Hearing on May 6, 2021. Task Force members were invited to discuss and reflect on testimony that resonated with them as it pertained to land-use and housing policy. Several Task Force members expressed interest in testimony that recommended that Howard County change the name of Blandair Park. Task Force members discussed how the issue of names of public facilities might be formed into a recommendation to the County Council.

Following the conversation on public testimony, the Task Force members reviewed and discussed the draft recommendations prepared for the public hearing, starting with the recommendations on zoning. Several Task Force members expressed interest in expanding the zoning recommendations to specifically include a recommendation to expand multifamily housing options in more areas of the county through zoning changes. During the discussion, Mr. Engel shared several maps that highlighted the geographic distribution of multifamily housing, population by race, and population of students receiving free-and-

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

reduced meals (FARMs) in Howard County. Lauren Marra, Task Force Facilitator, recommended that Mr. Engel work with other subgroup members to develop the zoning recommendations further.

During the conversation on recommendations, Vonda Orders, Task Force member, suggested adding a definition of affordable housing to the narrative change recommendations to ensure that the subgroup was clear with its intent and language. Task Force members agreed with the suggestion and agreed to develop a working definition for affordable housing to be included in the final report. Task Force members Taneeka Richardson, Vonda Orders, and Peter Engel then gave a brief overview on the draft recommendations pertaining to affordable housing. Task Force members offered feedback on the recommendations, which included adding clarifying language for affordable housing Recommendation #5.

At the end of the meeting, Ms. Marra encouraged subgroup members to refine their recommendations in non-quorum groups based on the feedback and conversation from the meeting. Subgroup members were asked to provide revisions on recommendations for the next subgroup meeting. Ms. Coates confirmed the date and time of the upcoming subgroup meeting on June 8, 2021 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

Ms. Coates thanked members of the subgroup for participating and adjourned the meeting at 6:11 PM.