



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes

MILLENNIAL TASK FORCE

CHAIR: MARQUAYLA ELLISON

**Nick Carnahan, Nicole Behnke, Jordan Donald, Tenia Fisher,
Jeremy Fojut, Adam Gabornitz, Michael Hostad, Amelia Kegel,
Noel Kegel, Kacee Ochalek, Jason Rae, Ger Thao, Tiffany
Henry and Sam Woods.**

Staff Assistant: Chris Lee, 414-286-2232

Legislative Liaison: Alex Highley, 414-286-8661

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

This will be a virtual meeting conducted via GoToMeeting. Should you wish to join this meeting from your phone, tablet, or computer you may go to <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/839705085>. You can also dial in using your phone United States: +1 (224) 501-3412 and Access Code: 839-705-085.

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 3:58 p.m.

2. Roll call.

Present 10 - Rae, Fojut, Carnahan, Donald, Ellison, Fisher, Gabornitz, Hostead, Kegel and Woods

Excused 5 - Kegel, Ochalek, Thao, Henry and Behnke

Also present:

Alex Highley, Legislative Reference Bureau

3. Review and approval of the previous meeting minutes from February 10, 2021.

Meeting minutes from February 10, 2021 were approved without objection.

4. Review of task force final recommendations report.

Appearing:

President Cavalier Johnson, Common Council

Chair Ellison said that prior to reaching quorum, President Johnson had shared his thoughts to those members present on task force recommendations thus far and on City initiatives related to the recommendations.

Members said that HBCU or BIPOC colleges are needed for the State and if possible the City (perhaps 53206 zip code).

President Johnson said that the task force was doing good work so far, he is hopeful to implement task force recommendations, and that task force members team up with him to make a presentation to the Common Council when ready.

Mr. Lee said that the introduction piece, prepared by Mr. Highley, of the final task force report was forwarded to members to review and discuss should the time allowed for it.

5. Update or review of recommendations from work groups.

Members reviewed work group recommendations, which were forwarded to members.

-Infrastructure

Member Noel presented recommendations. The recommendations were twofold - based on setting policy and implementation and with the overall vision of increasing transportation and the built environment. For policy there were three main recommendations: commit to modern, multi-modal transportation; commit to equitable development, and commit to Vision Zero. For implementation there were three main recommendations: join NATO, create a modern transportation agency; and develop a sustainable infrastructure funding source.

-Economic development

Member Fojut presented the following main recommendations: create a City Startup Grant Competition that awards innovative, scalable, and job-creating startups with \$50,000 non-dilutive grants and access to an ecosystem of resources in exchange for headquartering their business in Milwaukee for at least a year; create a DCD public/private Opportunity Zone Fund and/or Revolving Loan Fund for community development under \$10 million and expand this tool to BIDs; formalize a resident-first city planning process; create a Department of Transportation that works on improving systems, inspires innovation across sectors, and evaluates outdated projects and procedures; establish a department/task force/program around talent attraction and retention that continuously works on talent based issues; support for further funding for the DirectConnect MKE program; explore a Universal Basic Income (UBI) program; form Talent Investment Districts (TID) similar to a BID or NID to collect funds for allocation towards attracting, developing, or retaining talent in particular neighborhoods; and establish a social entrepreneurship fund.

-Racial equity & criminal justice

Member Gabornitz presented the following main anti-racism solutions: provide more financial support for the Office of African American Affairs (OAAA), connect it with the Health Dept., and streamline OAAA's efforts with the County OAAA; provide an update on the existing Community Collaborative Committee tasked with addressing racial and criminal justice issues; modify police training such as implementing the Blueprint for Peace and Wisconsin Policy Forum's policing reform recommendations; expand emotional intelligence and cultural competency assessments to all City employees; and incentivize first-time homebuying and residence in black/brown neighborhoods.

Members said that the messaging should be about equity and inclusion and not on

segregation, that task force recommendations should not sit on a shelf but rather be implemented, and that the recommendations be a living document.

-Health & wellness

Chair Ellison presented the following main recommendations: address the major impacts COVID-19 has had on the black and brown community; recommend a council sponsored report addressing inequitable access to neighborhood amenities/access points; increase funding to the Office of Violence Prevention, and create free mental health introductory consultation for Milwaukee residents.

-Education

Member Hostad presented the following main recommendations: incentivize young people to stay in Milwaukee for college via more resources to scholarships, grants, ACT prep, training, and discounted tuition; expose young people to non-traditional career pathways available in Milwaukee and make pathways part of school curriculum; and improve the college experience, implement curriculums to teach students about Milwaukee job opportunities, expose them to the City, and have pre-internship programs; and promote the creation of Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in Milwaukee.

Members said that the wheel should not be reinvented, that existing programs such as the various precollege programs in the City should be utilized and enhanced more; that exit interview surveys have shown problematic cultures for the City's major employers; and that workplace culture still needs to be addressed.

Mr. Highley said that the exit interviews and poor workplace culture acknowledgment could be added to the introduction piece of the final report.

Member Fojut moved approval, seconded by member Hostad, of the work group recommendations, as present, and for its incorporation into the final task force report. There was no objection.

Further details of the work group recommendations can be found within Common Council file number 191649.

6. Next steps.

-Agenda items

Review and approval of the final task force recommendations report. Additional items to be determined.

-Meetings

To be determined.

-Structure

Work groups can continue to meet, if necessary, and offer additional recommendations if necessary.

7. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

*Chris Lee, Staff Assistant
Council Records Section
City Clerk's Office*

Meeting materials from past and present can be found within the following file:

[191649](#)

Communication relating to findings, recommendations and activities of the Millennial Task Force.

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