



## Martin Luther King Recognition Task Force

June 9, 2017

Minutes

Members Present: Councilor Ali, Danielle Conway, Dawud Ummah, Daniel Minter via phone

Staff present: Troy Moon

Public: George Rheault

### Welcome and introductions

Councilor Ali welcomed everyone. Mentioned that the City had a previous Task Force, recommendations not acted on, not sure why. This group has a more limited scope, but he's willing to look at different scenarios. He's also looking for opportunities to recognize other prominent African Americans such as Mr. Talbot and Mr. Shepherd.

### Review minutes from 6/2

All in favor of minutes as drafted

### Review recommendations from previous task force

Dawud: There was interest in a King Center, maybe there is a way to collaborate with private donors. There was some concern that the trail alone may not be significant enough

Danielle – Part of Dr. King's legacy includes workers rights, workforce development. Is there a way to connect that to the development going on there?

Dawud – The previous committee had begun discussing raising money. Seems like there may be interest in the community about MLK center, see if there are people who want to work on it. There was opposition to renaming Baxter Boulevard, but there was interest in the park (Bayside)

Councilor Ali – has been looking the African American Center in DC – identify place where we want it to happen – maybe a new committee to raise money to implement a significant project.

Dawud – previous committee had not prepared to raise money – didn't have anything to match any possible donors.

Councilor Ali – can start with a big idea and work from there. What can we do that will bring in more people?



Dawud – people may be in a better position to raise funds now that we were in 2008.

Troy – mentioned that there is a fund associated with the Bayside Trail that may be available to help fund some recognition that involved improvements on the trail.

Councilor Ali – Asked to learn more and see how much money might be available.

Councilor Ali – Asks Daniel if he recalled why the previous recommendations weren't implemented.

Daniel – Art benches stalled. Funding for one bench at a time. One call for artwork that went out. Some responses came in but the project stalled because it was difficult to get the money for a number of art projects. There was a budget that was only for one set of benches but the project called for a number of them. The expense was out of proportion. The designs were obscure and didn't seem associated with Dr. King. The call for art was not clear enough. Perhaps some push back on designating the benches to Dr. King instead of just one art work or memorial for one location.

Councilor Ali – Where was this coming from?

Daniel – From the community in general. The one area designated for the memorial wasn't clearly specified. There wasn't a full process to talk about how it was determined

Danielle – We would need more people in the room to make a decision about whether this is appropriate. Activities would bring more people

Dawud – remembers that there would be a statue with benches, for more of a reflective area.

Daniel – calls never went out

Danielle – Updating this requires more public comment.

Councilor Ali – we can take many directions – such as the original task force recommendation. We want to work on it, or we can work on it on their own.

Danielle – maybe ask for Sustainability and Transportation Committee to comment on this, see about working on it.

Dawud – At last meeting of previous committee there were break outs. It came down to the trail because it came down to money.

Danielle – Can we bring neighborhood influence, get input on the original concept?

Councilor Ali – Probably possible to broaden the conversation. This is an Important task that may need more time based on what we think we need. We also need to be mindful of the time invested by the volunteer committee members.

Danielle – re: the RFP – can't tell from the original report who was involved with the call for art, MECA or others?



Councilor Ali – Do we want to reach out to the previous task force to get involved again.

Danielle – there are people involved in the art community who may be interested in donating art – maybe people at MECA or PMA would be interested. We need to take our time and do this right.

Daniel – Was just at PMA and saw a new sculpture that was just donated by a private individual.

Councilor Ali – Staff should reach out to people involved previously plus new groups that may be want to involved such as neighborhood orgs. Would like to bring in voices soon. Will meet with Councilor Thibodeau to discuss the need to bring people in. Global Shapers is one group to get involved.

Troy – Expansion would be beyond the scope of what the task force was asked to do. Suggests Councilor Ali speak with Councilor Thibodeau.

Councilor Ali - Hold off on contacting anyone until he speaks with Councilor Thibodeau.

Daniel – in the material do we have the 2008 information from Portland Oregon? Renaming a street with markers along the length of it. Northeast Martin Luther King Gateway. A way of going over some of the things that have been done before.

Adjourned at 5:00 PM