

Taskforce: Children and Youth Fund Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

5:00 pm

Humanim - 1701 N Gay St, Baltimore, MD 21213

Board Members:

Present: Robert C. Embry Jr., Samantha Mellerson, Valencia Warnock King, Marie Moleuba, Yoanna Moises, Elena DiPietro, Michael D. Thomas, Mecca Lewis, Niara Ferguson, Brianna Dower, Adar Ayira, Tracey Estep, Kenneth R. Darden, David Miller, Virginia Grant (representing Kim Trueheart), Arlene F. Lee, Donald C. Fry, Sheryl Goldstein, Antinnea Skipwith, Ericka Alston-Buck, Terry Hickey, Jason Perkins-Cohen, George Mitchell, Lisa Schroeder, Michelle Becote-Jackson, Lara Law

Absent: Mira Green, Dawn Kirstaetter, Jade Malonga, Jonathan Townes, Mary Anne O'Donnell, Kimberly Armstrong, Alexandria Warrick Adams, Joseph Smith, Heber Brown III, Stacie Sanders Evans

Quorum present? Yes

Others Present:

City Councilman Robert Stokes

Proceedings:

· *Introduction opening by Council President Young*

· *Meeting called to order at 5:25 p.m. by Co-Chairs, Adam Jackson and Dr. John Brothers*

· *Baltimore City Finance Department introduction:* Yoanna Moises, Chief of Staff - Director of Finance:

- Serving as an Advisory role; Moises stated that she is here to answer all questions concerning budget process and how one may want to get involved in the financial process.

· Baltimore City Law Department introduction: Elena DiPietro, Chief, Legal Advice and Opinions Practice Group

- DiPietro will assist in the launch of this Task force; assuring that the Ordinance that's required by the Charter Amendment is put together accurately for program funding.

Lester Davis asserts to the group: As this is a two-step process, where it was started in September of 2015 with an Ordinance to change the City's charter to give the City Council ability to appropriate and direct funds, which resulted in 'Question E' on the November elections ballot. The secondary step is where the taskforce and the public collaboratively set up the infrastructure, guidelines, and parameters of how to fund eligible organizations.

What is the vision of the Taskforce?

Three major points of the Youth Fund Task force that will be the guiding principles to discuss issues around the Fund, making decisions, and coming to a Board consensus over the next months.

Goal is to answer the following questions by month three.

1. How will the grant making happen? And to where?
2. What will the governing structure be after this taskforce is complete?

Co-Chair Jackson shares thoughts of controversial pieces of governing structure: Baltimore networks are not accessed to all. An average non-profit owner may feel disadvantaged from these types of funds as they may not have the necessary paperwork, metrics, resources, and eligibilities that would necessarily be needed to apply for such grants.

Recommendation: The taskforce can structurally make it easier for organizations to gain resources, capacity build, and steer them in a way where they may be eligible for other forms of funding and operate without this taskforce in the long-term. This will assist in building community based institutions that are held accountable to community. Goal is to have a race-equity frame as funding is approached.

Questions:

- Are the actions of this group going forward to the final ordinance of Mayor and City Council?
- Will there be split committees? – No forming of committees
- Why is the youth representation on this Taskforce low? – There are six voting youth members on the board.

Value Comments and Recommendations:

- Simpler language
- Verbiage centered toward youth
- “Grounded in youth voice”
- Building and strengthening organizations.

Structure Comments and Recommendations:

- Set criteria that the organizations applying for funding must be a 501 c3's
- For the organizations that are not a legal nonprofit, the taskforce can offer the resources where they can go to become a 501 c3.
- Vet out the organizations that are community based, for the betterment of needed communities.

- Identify and discuss the barriers; the need of transportation for the youth to get to these nonprofit organizations.
- Important that the Board be mindful of those organizations that have not/may not spend correctly, as this is administering public monies.
- The budget cuts that are deemed to take place in the next year, the eligible organizations should be focused on the affected youth as priority.

Discussion continued on the value of this Taskforce. *What are we valuing? What and where are we targeting?*

Closing Recommendations and Remarks:

- Can we come together with the methodology, policy and structure of the Youth Fund going forward?
- Not being able to hear from the audience and gain feedback from those watching and are interested in the process.
 - Lester Davis mentioned the availability of the Baltimore City Council legislation page, for those who want to be apart and wish to read more on the legislation.
 - There will also be a new dedicated email address, where citizens can direct messages and questions to the Taskforce. In subsequent meetings, there will be opportunities for citizens to share feedback and comments to the Board.

• Close of the Meeting:

Co-Chair Dr. Brothers asked members to look at the “Children and Youth Fund Taskforce Values” and send any additions and changes that will be included and focused on during the next March 7th meeting, where there will be a new and updated version.

Board member suggested that there will be ‘rules of engagement’ for the next meeting to be focused during discussions and to take an action to identify next steps. Co-Chairs, Adam Jackson and Dr. John Brothers agreed.

Next steps: Conclude the discussion of the Taskforce values. Comparable models will be sent to the Board for the next meeting

• Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

• Next meeting: Tuesday, March 7, 2017. Location: TBA