



Reimagining Public Safety Task Force

Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2021, 5:30pm-8:30 p.m. CST, Zoom

Members Present

Reimagining Public Safety Task Force Members (19 in attendance), City of Austin Staff

Agenda Items

1. Welcome, Recaps, Acknowledgements, Introductions
2. Revisit Values and Outline Facilitation Approach
3. Review New Proposed Dates and Larger Timeline
4. Discussion and Process Questions
5. First Work Group Presentation
6. Discussion and Question for First Work Group
7. Second Work Group Presentation
8. Discussion and Question for Second Work Group
9. Closing

Item 1. Welcome, Recaps, Acknowledgements, Introductions

Co-Chairs Paula Rojas and Brion Oaks welcomed the group and introduced the new facilitator, Rosanna Cruz/RC.

Item 2. Revisit Values and Outline Facilitator Approach

RC greeted the group and provided an overview of her values and how they align with the values of the Task Force, such as the importance of the work being done by the Task Force, for members to speak slowly, use clear language, and being mindful of time. RC thanked Kellee Coleman and Maya Coleman for their efforts in facilitating previous meetings. They also noted that only two work groups were going to present for the meeting.

Item 3. Review New Proposed Dates and Larger Timeline

Co-Chairs Rojas indicated that TF Member Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde submitted a memo to Mayor and Council with an April 20th date to move forward recommendations to Council. TF Member Rebecca Sanchez asked for clarification on when recommendations need to move forward. TF Rivera-Vandermyde indicated that there isn't anything on the horizon but that staff will need to coordinate a RCA.

TF Member Kathy Mitchell inquired when the Communications Division is going to be moved out of APD. TF River-Vandermyde indicated that the winter storm shifted things but that she will let everyone know if there are updates.

RC asked that everyone introduce themselves and include the organization they are representing. Co-Chair Rojas indicated that with the assumption that the TF will be presenting to the Council on April 20th, she proposes March 29th as another full TF meeting so that all the working groups can give presentations like originally schedule on March 3rd. The community listening session will now fall on April 3rd, which was originally scheduled on March 13th. Then on April 13th or April 14th they will come back to have a full finalizing of recommendations on what needs to be presented to Council.

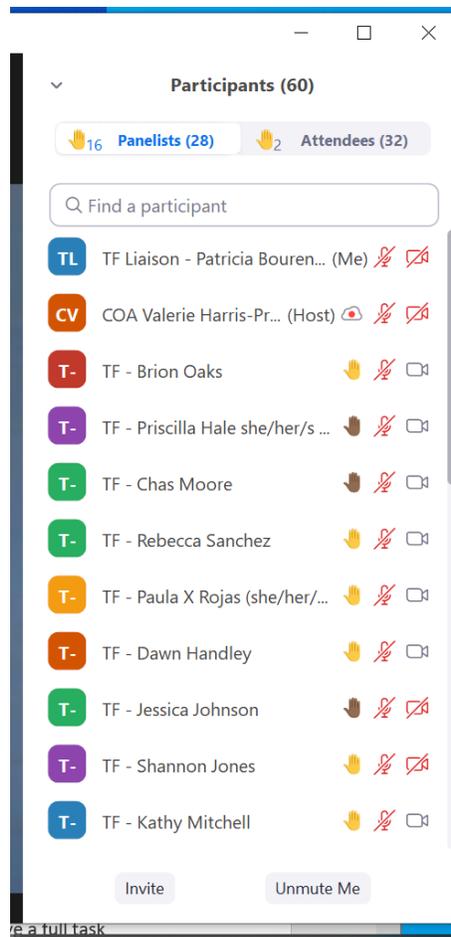
- TF Monica Guzman indicated that Wednesdays (April 13th) are not good meeting dates for her.
- TF Rebecca Sanchez indicated April 14th will not work.

RC took a pulse for April 13th as the date to finalize recommendations and it was decided that April 13th and April 20th were the dates for recommendations. Co-Chari Rojas asked if there were issues with March 29th and no one indicated issues.

Oaks motion to adopt, Nuria seconded the following dates: March 29th, April 3rd, April 13th, and April 20th.

Final vote: 17 In Favor, 0 Oppose, 0 Abstain, 1 Did Not Vote

With TF Matt Simpson with a verbal approval and TF David Johnson not voting.



Item 4. Discussion and Process Questions

RC stated they would ask for a roll call of work groups. TF Rebecca Sanchez indicated she is ready to talk through work group meetings and the community listening session. TF Sanchez indicated her work group are still working on it and will be able to share in the next week. Right now, they only have that the group will prioritize voices of those harmed by police.

RC invites the TF to have a discussion on community engagement. TF David Johnson asked if the City Manager's Office is going to provide the different strategies to better inform the working groups. He indicated that his work group sent in a request in February but have not received a response yet. TF Rivera-Vandermyde indicated that she was not aware but to send to her and TF Oaks said to include him as well on the email.

TF Rebecca Sanchez indicated that folks have been asking about interpretation services and that Alicia Dean from the City can handle that piece. Also, she asked about gathering data and what of that information gathered is subject to open records? TF Rivera-Vandermyde indicated that if information is shared amongst community members and does not involve staff, it should not be applicable to open records but will follow-up with the TF.

RC asked the TF to go round robin of working groups on the priorities of community engagement.

- TF Amanda Lewis indicated that her working group would like to hold more smaller working sessions, setting an online form, and compensate with gift cards supplied by the Equity Office. She would like to know more about disclosure and anonymity. A concern is that this work may be multi-month, but could also be ongoing.

RC asked if this is cyclical work and will be ongoing. TF Rivera-Vandermyde indicated that that is probably true. There was a request from Council to come mid-year with recommendations from the TF. Staff will need to provide an update to Council, she doesn't see more work on the decoupling side. As we continue to learn more, we can draft a resolution in May or June and make a request for the next fiscal year and that there may be other opportunities.

- TF Kathy Mitchell indicated that her work group meeting was scheduled during the winter storm so it didn't occur. Her group requested City assistance with a single public meeting that has to deal with subgroups at APD (i.e. mounted unit). They need help setting the meeting up and publicizing because of time limitations.

RC indicated that we have a little under three weeks and invited the remaining working groups to add to the discussion.

- TF David Johnson indicated that with regard to patrol and surveillance, he will reach back to the City to take a more analytical look at the impact of patrol and surveillance. What the daily harm looks like and when they are uprooting, they can point directly back to the input gained. His work group appreciates more time.

- Co-Chair Rojas mentioned that their meetings were cancelled due to storm. They decided to not have an open meeting because their group is focused on meaningful investments in communities that are over policed, with not a lot of investment. Focusing on low-income mothers. They are going to hold two meetings the week of March 27th and will be adding an additional one. They would like more time.
- TF Kathy Mitchell would like to keep her work group meeting dates and would like staff assistance. Also need to factor in time for posting and promoting.
- Co-Chair Oaks indicated that the City's CPIO team can help prepare Zoom, City website and social media, and interpretation if needed.
- TF Rivera-Vandermyde indicated that if there is requests beyond engagement such as data or information, that City staff can help.
- Co-Chair Rojas indicated she would like to hear where the groups are at and what do they need.
- TF Amanda Lewis wants to clarify that her work group seems like things are going a little backwards. Whatever takes place needs to be open and honest (i.e. budget amendment, or towards the end of the year).
- RC indicated that it's an iterative process that can inform the next wave.
- TF Cate Graziani agrees that they need more time for meaningful engagement and their plans were derailed due to the winter storm. One and one surveys and listening sessions for their group have been discussed but nothing is set in stone. More time is better as long as the recommendations will have an impact on the City's decisions.
- TF Cole Cunoy indicated that his work group is taking point on the busines and economic development. Prior to the winter storm, they had meaningful engagement and were leveraging network and meeting with businesses. Inviting concerned stakeholders to participate and has been happy with the engagement to date.
- TF Jessica Johnson stated that the 911 work group has not come to consensus on their community engagement meeting. They have discussed online survey and are also concerned with missing parts of the community by using City for outreach.
- Alicia Dean indicated that the RPS Strategic team is available to help and asked that work groups to send their tentative the dates as soon as possible, particularly if they need language access. They will help providing support such as, marketing collateral, translation, zoom, etc. Alicia shared her email address with the TF.

- TF Monica Guzman shared that in their last couple of meetings, they focused on a survey where people can respond anonymously. She understands that they need a lot of feedback but wants to highlight that social media is not necessarily the answer. She wants to make sure they hit all the right people. TF Sanchez indicated that it is a link to a survey with questions, very targeted information and provide in a variety of ways for people to share.
- Co-Chair Rojas indicated that she concerned with the update from TF Cole Cunoy and wants to make sure they center those who are most directly harmed by police. TF Cunoy indicated that they have reached out to several stakeholders, not only businesses to form their recommendations.

RC indicated that we will not continue with the agenda but rather continuing with the discussion in hearing from work groups. Co-Chair Rojas walked the group through the Community Equity Reinvestment work group's draft proposal outlining the framework for their recommendations. Co-Chair Rojas asked once they have closer to having final recommendations, she'd like to the group to think how they might share with the community at large. TF Chris Harris indicated that he recently saw a map of the red-line in Houston and a map of poverty and COVID outcomes, and there hasn't been much change. He indicated that we continue to see the impacts of oppression and shared gratitude for the work group.

TF Shannon Jones concurs with everything Co-Chair Rojas has stated, targeting intervention within the community, change in demographics and lack of public health access, and would like to City to make concerted effort and funding. Also, to build a system where policy can change and monitor to address things as they occur over time. TF Amanda Lewis stated she loved the format and asked if the working group can share with their work group. Co-Chair Oaks thanked Co-Chair Rojas for sharing and mentioned a pilot program from Stockton, CA regarding unemployment.

TF Rebecca Sanchez wants to get the discussion started of what the process will look like with the TF recommendation on the Cadet Class and would like to know how do we move forward with that. TF Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde responded that the actual recommendation from the meeting minutes and the recommendations from Kroll will be submitted to Council and that the TF can also write a letter to Council highlighting their recommendation regarding the Cadet Class.

RC asked that a Co-Chair share the recommendation. Co-Chair Oaks indicated that the TF recommended that a new academy class not move forward without their recommendations, such as Office of Violence Prevention and addressing conditions in the Academy, such as treatment of black cadets.

TF Chris Harris asked about potential reallocation of dollars, such as the housing bond and putting into a community hub. TF Rivera-Vandermyde indicated that the City can connect the work group with the Housing department or send questions to the City so that we can respond.

In addition, she stated that we will look at recommendations like that should they be submitted.

RC indicated that for the next meeting, the priority agenda items will be for all work groups to present (where are you at, community feedback), spend 10 minutes per group just on presentation, then 5 minutes for groups to answer questions. Then touch on challenges of community engagement and then discuss implementation.

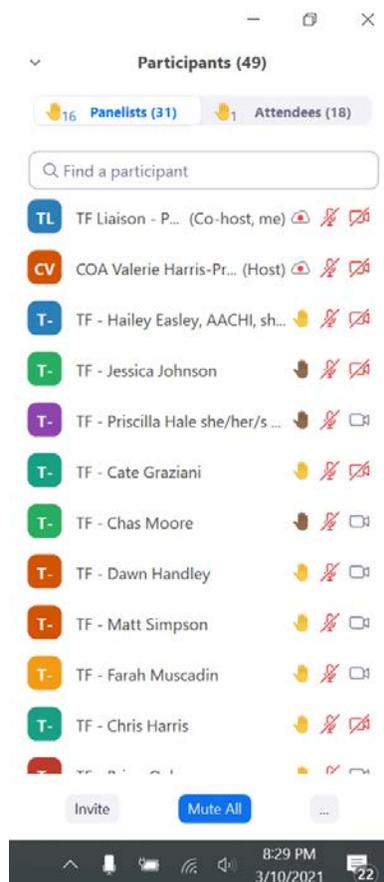
TF Kathy Mitchell doesn't know how the patrol work group will be able to get recommendations by next meeting, March 29th. RC indicated that each group will work differently. TF Sanchez asked if they can move the March 29th date to first week of April to get input. She proposed April 5th for the next TF meeting and then April 10th for the community listening session. TF Cate Graziani supported the shift.

April 15th for a viable meeting date.

TF Monica Guzman moved to move the March 29th meeting to April 7th for the community listening session, April 3rd to April 10th, with the third meeting will be April 15th – April 19th for Task Force.

TF Rebecca Sanchez seconded the motion.

Final vote: 16 In Favor, 0 Oppose, 0 Abstain, 0 Did Not Vote



RC asked who can send an email for the final TF meeting. Co-Chair Rojas will send out the email and asked TF to reply by Friday, March 12th and on Monday they will email the final date. She will also share her work group's proposal document.

RC will send an email by March 16th offering proposed format of the working group recommendations for April 7th.

By Friday, March 26th RC will share the proposal template.

Closing

RC shared a poem by June Jordan and indicated they will share a survey.