



CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON
BLACK MALE ACHIEVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

Every Black male will have sufficient access and opportunity to the factors that lead to health, safety, and success.

July 14th Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Abdul Hafeedh bin Abdulah, Michael Alexander, Ralph Evans, Dondrae “Choo” Fair, Tony Hopson, Dante James, Erious Johnson, Joe McFerrin, Clifford Meeks, James Posey, Justice Rajee, Walter Robinson, Ty Schwoeffermann, Condry “CJ” Robbins, Justin Robinson-Harris (Intern).

CJ welcomed the group. He then mentioned the historical landmark regarding the decision to remove the flag in South Carolina, and recent Supreme Court decisions. Ty informed the group there is an effort for the Mississippi flag to be removed here in Oregon. Lew Frederick is leading the effort. Ty will circulate the information to the group.

For the coordinator’s update CJ stated that all but one group met in the last month. The groups are doing well as far as meeting. CJ stated that he is excited about what the committees are doing.

Justice gave an update of the Justice Subcommittee. The group is working on putting something together to help get folks removed from Portland Police Bureau’s “gang list.” There needs to be a structured program for this to happen. Folks would get notice that they’d be put on the list then have a chance to respond. It was stated that members and affiliates are getting on the gang list the same way. Is there a manual to show how to avoid getting on the list? Abdul stated that a gang is defined as two or more individuals who engage in criminal activity. Once placed on the list individuals have to remain on the gang list for four years. It was stated that the violence should be the focus, not gang involvement. The Justice subcommittee will move forward in trying to reduce the over inclusiveness of PPB’s “gang list”. Send any suggestions you have to Justice Rajee.

Ty gave the Family Stability update. He stated more funding is needed for the Black community. They’d like to come up with strategies to identify groups that serve the Black male population, particularly those who are focused on “Black Fatherhood”. It was mentioned that finding out the cost of absent fathers would be compelling. The group would like to do this by the end of the year. It may not create new money but possibly different wording on the RFP’s. It was also suggested reconnecting with previous funders such as MRG Foundation and others who are committed to social justice.

CJ gave the update for the Education Subcommittee. This group is working on an asset map around its particular focus of exclusionary discipline. Mark Jackson has connected CJ to Nate Waas-Schull of All Hands Raised, and Jason Trombley of Oregon Alliance for Education Equity to aid in this effort.

It was suggested the steering committee as a whole show up in mass to be visible, not just one subcommittee. The next steps are the workgroups continue to move forward. How do we get 100 Black men in the room? Having brothers show up who don't understand isn't good so we need to inform them. It was suggested to get started the men from the Steering Committee each come up with two names. There also needs to be something put together that states what these men would be committing to. Volunteers for this project are Ty, Justice, Ralph and Tony. This group will have a two hour meeting prior to the next steering committee meeting. It was recommended to start with the list from the visioning sessions.

Dante asked the chairs from each subcommittee to take on more responsibility for staffing their committee meetings. It was suggested that they send out reminders to their committee members, facilitate meetings and process agendas so that CJ doesn't have to for each group. Tony suggested that CJ should be able to come to subcommittee meetings and just take notes. James suggested we go back to the Mayor and ask for additional staff so CJ could have an Administrative Assistant to help him out with some of the work, or that there be reassignment of responsibilities and structures. It was stated that as results are shown we'd be able to ask for additional help. Right now we have to work with what we have. The committee chairs present, Joe McFerrin, Ty Schwoeffermann, and Justice Rajee, agreed to take on more responsibility.

We are now at a point where we can involve stakeholders. Folks are waiting to be tapped for their expertise. How do we reengage folks? Dante suggested the document that CJ put together could go out to the group. Folks who are interested could email CJ and the conversation could begin. It was also suggested that CJ and Dante put together a YouTube clip as a personal appeal that states what is needed. Give folks specific deliverables. It was also recommended to hold a special session on a quarterly basis to involve those who we do not want to invite to do the work at this point. Be clear that there's no promise they'd be on the steering committee. It was suggested that those interested serve on subcommittees first. There needs to be a process put in place. It would be nice to have up to 50 Black men since all current members aren't in attendance for the steering committee meetings. Each could serve a three year term. We also need to stagger the end of terms for continuity. Folks would apply and the steering committee members would vote.

Dante mentioned the document CJ put together for the Mayor. This document was put together to explain the structure of the BMA. CJ stated that some areas of the document will need to be updated as we move forward. He will get updated information to the Mayor prior to each quarterly meeting the Mayor attends.

CJ asked that men from the Steering Committee attend the Summer Youth Experience that would be held on Friday, 10:00 in City Hall Council Chambers.

CJ has tickets for Steven Green "Pitch Black". Let CJ know if you are interested in getting a ticket.

Action items

- **CJ will staff a two hour meeting with those who volunteered to be on a Strategic Black Male Voice Convening workgroup.**
- **Subcommittee chairs will be responsible for scheduling and staffing subcommittee meetings.**
- **Subcommittee chairs will be responsible for moving their committee agendas forward.**
- **Subcommittee chairs will facilitate their committee meetings.**
- **CJ will take notes on, and distribute notes for subcommittee meetings.**
- **CJ will draft policy for Steering Committee membership and present the draft in next month's steering committee meeting.**
- **CJ will identify those on the stakeholder email list that we want to contact and send an email informing them of the work BMA is doing and inviting them to participate.**