

Safe, Equitable and Thriving (SET) Communities  
Task Force  
June 15, 2016  
Meeting Minutes

SET TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stacey Walker, Mary Wilcynski, Alphonse O'Bannon, Trace Pickering, Akwi Nji, Dale Todd, Dorice Ramsey, Ben Rogers, Jenny Schulz, Gary Hinzman, John Tursi, Rafael Jacobo, Okpara Rice, Carlos Grant

SET TASK FORCE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Leslie Wright, Rodrick Dooley, Karl Cassell, LaSheila Yates, Paul Hayes

CITY LIAISON PRESENT:

Angie Charipar

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Police Chief Wayne Jerman, Administrative Assistant Jean Novak

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Hemmingsen

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Stacey Walker at 7:40 AM. Jenny Schulz moved to approve the minutes from June 2, 2016. Trace Pickering seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments were heard.

DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF PURPOSE STATEMENTS, CONDITIONS TO CHANGE AND TARGET POPULATION:

Stacey stated the committee needs to review and discuss the three fundamental questions (Purpose Statement, the conditions that we want to change, and for who and

how many) from each subcommittee. The answers to these questions will provide information needed for the preliminary report that will be given to the City, County and School Board. Then, the committee will move on to the next set of fundamental questions. The importance of doing this work together is that we can have several sets of eyes on all of the work the subcommittees have done up to this point. We can have different perspectives as we try to tackle some of the big issues like gun violence and systemic poverty and hardship. Even though it is cumbersome work, it is important that we really question the purpose statements. The first three questions drive the heavy duty part of the next four questions. Stacey stressed the importance of making sure the purpose statements say exactly what we think they ought to say.

### Outreach & Community Engagement

Lengthy discussion was held of the subcommittee's purpose statement, conditions we want to change, and for whom and how many.

The purpose statement was revised to read:

- Help create a safe, equitable thriving community through sharing stories of the community, giving Voice to the Voiceless, fostering relationships with community members and organizations, and thereby increasing social capital.

Conditions to Change:

- Change the dominant narrative from “fear and hopelessness” to “possibilities and hope”; and to foster a sense of value for the wide tapestry of people in our community”.
- Lack of connection to one another, our neighbors, and community groups.
- Lack of shared sense of investment among some in the community.
- Improve the richness of the stories we tell about our community and the people in it.

For Who & How Many:

- Everyone in the community

### Programming

The purpose statement was revised to read:

- Develop a catalog of comprehensive community programs and resources providing a cradle to career network of programs to prepare Cedar Rapids youth for a successful transition to adulthood.

Conditions to Change:

- Identify programs which address the full range of services from cradle to career:
  - Quality Early Development
  - Kindergarten Readiness
  - Grade Level Reading
  - High School Graduation
  - Post-Secondary Engagement
  - Mental, Physical and Emotional Health
  - Career Attainment
- Identify gaps in programming or funding sources
- Advocate for a “user friendly” system to access information and is updated in real-time

For Who & How many:

Much discussion was held and the question could not be resolved. Stacey asked the subcommittee to continue to work on this question.

### Housing

The purpose statement reads as follows:

- It is our belief that all people deserve access to quality, safe and affordable housing. By stabilizing and enhancing the existing housing stock and providing viable housing options to those who are limited by market variables and economic social conditions, we believe we can improve the economic indicators, character and stability of our neighborhoods.

There was not enough time to thoroughly discuss the Housing Committee items.

Stacey asked the members to make their comments/edits on the Worktable for SET Task Force Google doc. Comments can be added in the Google doc, and you can change the settings, so we can know who is commenting.

### DISCUSSION OF SUMMER SCHEDULE:

Mary stated that their plan is to go to the City Council, County Board of Supervisors, and the School Board in late July with the Purpose Statements, Conditions to Change and For Who and How Many for each subcommittee. This would be our initial report, not in a written form, but rather an update. In the meantime, each subcommittee should also get started on the next four questions. With summer vacations, etc. Mary asked how to proceed during the summer months.

Stacey said that he would send out a Doodle poll to everyone about the July meeting date, and that we will still have the SET meetings at least once per month even during the summer.

#### UPDATE ON REPORT WRITER:

At the last meeting, discussion was held regarding the RFP that only one response was received, and the cost was going to be \$19,000. Some members did not like the amount of money that it would cost, and felt the money could be better used on something else. Jennifer Hemmingsen, who is a reporter with the Cedar Rapids Gazette has volunteered to be the report writer for the SET Task Force. If there is going to be reporting on task force open public meetings, the Gazette would have another reporter report on the meeting. Also, Jennifer would be at subcommittee meetings, and those are not open to public meeting laws. It would be assumed in the subcommittee meetings that Jennifer would attend as a writer, and everything would be off the record.

Angie stated that this a change from the original proposal, which said embargoed until later, which is very different than off the record. Embargoed means your conversations can be reported later by the Gazette after the report is published. Also, Mary and Stacey are working on a scope of work and a timeline for the work Jennifer will be doing. Once the scope of work is completed, they will work on the contract and then get the contract signed.

#### ADJOURN:

John Tursi moved to adjourn. Okpara Rice seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 AM

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jean Novak*