

Truth Plague Task Force and Racial Equity Commission Consolidation

The Town Council Work Session topic for February 13, 2024 focused on Advisory Boards and Commissions. Staff presented a proposal that will restructure and consolidate some advisory boards and commissions that have similar responsibilities. Consolidating the Truth Plague Task Force (TPTF) and Racial Equity Commission (REC) was included in that proposal. As a result of the Council discussion, staff was asked to meet with the members and provide recommendations.

The Truth Plague Task Force and Racial Equity Commission met together during two unofficial gatherings due to a lack of quorum and heard from some members by email and phone.

- **3/11/24** the following members were in attendance

TPTF: Delores Clark, Lilli Atwater, Luis Atwater, Braxton Foushee and Charles Austin

REC: Liz Carter and Donald (Landon) Hawkins

Staff liaison: Anita Jones-McNair and Wendy Welsch

Council liaisons: Mayor Foushee and Councilmember Haven O'Donell

Those that were in attendance agree that the work being done is similar in scope and makes a good match. Residents expressed a “win-win” combination. The combination of community members that lived through important historical moments and the wisdom and passion that everyone brings to the table for such an important purpose is priceless. Bringing voice to a part of the community that was not at the table is necessary.

- **5/22/24** the following members were in attendance

TPTF: Mae McClendon, Lilly Atwater, Braxton Foushee and Charles Austin

REC: Betty Curry

Guest: Amorrell Crossley

Staff liaisons: Lamar Joyner and Anita Jones-McNair

Council liaison: Mayor Foushee

TPTF and REC members reiterated forming one group, developing charge and structure of membership to bring back for Council consideration in the fall.

- 6/4/24 Rani Dasi expressed her support for the consolidation.
- 6/6/24 Richard Ellington agrees with the two elected bodies consolidating and working together.

