

## **Greenbelt Reparations Commission Meeting Notes**

Greenbelt Community Center

April 19, 2023

7:00 pm

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Formation of formal governance structure (includes role of the current steering committee and hiring a facilitator)
3. Administrative items
4. Open the meeting for public comments.
5. Wrap-up/Next meeting time and location

### **Attendance**

#### **Commissioners Present:**

1. Rene' Sewell-Raysor
2. Konrad Herling
3. Chelsea Barnes
4. Denise Nadasen
5. Rhema Bjorkland
6. Adriane Harris
7. Robert Rand
8. Mark Miller
9. Jonathan Taylor
10. Joseph Hamlin
11. Francis DeBernardo
12. James Williams, Jr.
13. Tom Adams
14. Lorena Ferdinand (virtual)
15. Sarah Wampler (virtual)
16. London McCloud (virtual)
17. Chiquita Jackson (virtual)

#### **Alternates Present:**

1. Gail Crichlow
2. Mark Wilson\_(Virtual)

#### **Staff Liaison(s) Present:**

1. Megan Searing Young

#### **Those not Present:**

1. Lois Rosado
2. Shabnam Mojtajedi
3. Yashuah Ford
4. Pamella Taylor

## Meeting Notes:

- Review of last week's meeting and minutes: Minutes approved and adopted.
  - **Steering Committee (SC) Members Identified:**
    - Denise Nadasen
    - Robert Rand
    - Jonathan Taylor
    - Adriane Harris
    - Rene' Sewell-Raysor
    - James Williams Jr.
    - Chelsea Barnes
    - Sarah Wampler
  - Would like to identify a formal governance structure for the SC committee.
  - **Things to consider for the commission:**
    - Hiring a facilitator – there is funding available from the city.
      - Reparations vs. DEI Subject matter expert
        - Konrad suggests both.
      - Keep the Facilitator for the entire process?
        - Only use the facilitator for the beginning?
        - Keep the content expert during the duration of the process?
      - Set expectations of the facilitator and create a scope of work.
    - Engagement
    - Increase the frequency of meetings.
    - Who will represent the committee externally?
    - Identify roles and responsibilities.
  - Subcommittee Development
    - Find two facilitators to work together and make decisions to help the general committee.
- We need initial research to learn the best practices for accomplishing the general commission's goals.
- Possibly identify a Research Committee
- **Things to investigate:**
  - Investigate who would be a good facilitator, what we need them to do, and who/what is available.
  - Investigate lessons learned from other reparations committees.
  - Investigate the History of Greenbelt on race and racism.
    - Frank Gervasi has films available to view about the cemetery during early Greenbelt residency.
  - London suggests bringing in a presenter for the commission from Howard University to educate us on Reparations.
    - Rhema suggested the presentation be open to the public..
- **1<sup>st</sup> Motion by unanimous vote:** Creating a subcommittee to explore and bring back recommendations for a consultant/facilitator for process development and content creation within 60 days.
  - **Subcommittee Volunteers**
    - **Tom and James** volunteered to work on looking for a consultant/facilitator.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Motion Educating the Commission – 2 parts by unanimous vote:**

- Set up a subcommittee that will organize an educational Seminar Series, via Zoom meetings or in person to welcome individuals to speak and provide educational opportunities for the commission to learn about reparations.
- **Part 1- Subcommittee Volunteers**
  - Chelsea
  - London
  - Sarah
  - Rene
  - Konrad
- **Part 2- Educational event**
  - London McCloud – offering a presentation from Howard University School of Law Justin Hansford on reparations.
  - Adriane – Has a friend on the San Fran Commission that she will contact for more information.
- **Agenda Items Tabled for May Meeting:**
  - Subcommittee to network with other groups with 5 takeaways – suggestions
  - How to handle media:
    - Graduate student from UMD, would like to bring cameras and interview are we ready?
    - Do we need a representative to handle and field media requests?
    - Communications Manager/Spokesperson?
  - Who can manage Google documents and the general Google drive?
  - Need to discuss the LENGTH of the meetings?
  - Announcements: how and when should they be distributed to the commission?
- **Public Comment:**
  - Too many interjections by the commissioners when another commissioner is speaking.
  - Greenbelt has received 23 million dollars in (AARPA) federal funding, and a bulk of the funds may be used for social needs. Tonight, the Budget meeting with city council occurred concurrently and we are unable to attend. Please consider not holding conflicting meetings so that we and the public may be present for City Council meetings.
- **Next meeting: Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup> at Council Chambers @7:00pm**
- Minutes to go out to the entire commission 1 week prior to the meeting.
- Action Items will also be emailed out.