

Greenbelt Reparations Commission Meeting Notes

Greenbelt Youth Center

June 21, 2023

7:00 pm

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Report from the facilitation subcommittee
3. Report from the education subcommittee
4. Report from other subcommittees
5. Administrative items
6. Wrap-up/Next meeting time and location
7. Open the meeting for public comments

Attendance

Commissioners Present:

1. Tom Adams
2. Chelsea Barnes (virtual)
3. Rhema Bjorkland
4. Francis DeBernardo (virtual)
5. Lorena Ferdinand
6. Chiquita Jackson (virtual)
7. Joseph Hamlin (virtual)
8. Mark Miller
9. Shabnam Mojtahedi
10. Denise Nadasen
11. Rene' Sewell-Raysor (virtual)
12. Jonathan Taylor
13. Sarah Wampler (virtual)
14. James Williams, Jr.

Alternates Present:

1. Gail Crichlow

Staff Liaison(s) Present:

1. Megan Searing Young

Those not Present:

1. Yashuah Ford
2. Adriane Harris
3. Konrad Herling
4. London McCloud
5. Bob Rand
6. Lois Rosado
7. Pamela Taylor
8. Mark Wilson

Meeting Notes:

- **Meeting notes from May 16, 2023:** Tentatively approved. The commission will have one week to review the May minutes and provide any feedback. After one week, the minutes will be considered approved.
- **Report from the facilitation subcommittee:**
 - Tom Adams, Denise Nadasen, and James Williams
 - RFP has been submitted to the City Manager who submitted to the Solicitor for review.
 - Timeline: proposals are due by July 15 (dates may have to be adjusted)
 - Once approved, the RFP is posted by the City (the Washington Post and other outlets)
 - Staff Liaison will collect proposals.
 - A search committee will review proposals, narrow the pool, conduct preliminary interviews, and select one or two candidates to recommend to the full commission. The subcommittee will also organize interviews with the candidates for the full commission. The full commission will select the final candidate.
 - Denise will email the commission asking for volunteers to serve on the search committee
 - If the cost is above \$10k, we would need approval by the Council to move forward with the selected candidate.
- **Report from the Education subcommittee:**
 - The purpose of the Education subcommittee is to educate the Commission on what other cities and regions are doing regarding reparations. They include: London, Chelsea, Sarah, Rene, Konrad, Lois, Josh, and Pamella (although Pamella has not been engaged).
 - Currently they are exploring California; San Francisco, CA; Evanston, IL; Berkeley, CA; St. Petersburg, FL; St. Louis, MO; Baltimore, MD; Tullahassee, OK; Providence, RI; St. Paul, MN; Asheville, NC; and Boston, MA.
 - They hope to meet two more times before the next meeting.
 - Question: What is the status of speakers coming in to talk to the RC?
 - They are currently seeking candidates/recommendations and will create a list of potential speakers.
- **Report from Greenbelt Historic Exploration subcommittee:**
 - This subcommittee will focus on what happened to African Americans and Native Americans in Greenbelt. It includes Lorena, Mark, and Rhema.
 - They met with Megan to learn about Greenbelt history.
 - They have material and would like to put it in a location where the RC can access the materials.
 - There was a recommendation to create a subfolder for each of the subcommittees.
 - They are planning a tour of the Greenbelt Museum.
- **Administrative items and other discussion**

- It was suggested that the subcommittees sent the RC a short paragraph with their update one week prior to the next RC meeting. This would be just to help the RC members prepare for questions and facilitate the discussion.
 - The current Steering Committee consists of Jonathan, Denise, Chelsea, Bob, Adriane, and Rene.
 - The SC created and proposed various roles to be filled by the RC members.
 - Someone suggested we ask other cities about their processes.
 - Librarian/co-librarian. They will meet with Megan and determine what options are available for storing document, select the best option, and propose a structure to the RC. This position would not rotate.
 - Bob Rand (not present, but volunteered through email) and Sarah Wampler will serve as librarian and co-librarian.
 - Secretary/co-secretary. Primary responsibility is to take minutes and make sure those are stored in the appropriate folder for the RC to access. Minutes can be minimal – recording votes for any motions. The minutes are currently not shared publicly, but they are available to the public if anyone should ask. The recordings of the meetings are also currently not available publicly, but can be available if we choose. This position could rotate.
 - We should consider a report to the Council upon our 6-month mark. The secretary/co-secretary will likely prepare this report.
 - Currently we have no official volunteers, however Denise and Mark Miller have an interest.
 - Parliamentarian/co-parliamentarian. We approved Roberts Rules of Order, but there is a more complex process and a simpler process. A parliamentarian would know the rules and provide guidance to the RC on how to close a discussion and to capture what is germane. They would also confirm how our decisions are made should there be a tie or conflict. This position would not rotate.
 - Rene has interest in this role.
 - There was a motion to fill all positions at this meeting. This motion was withdrawn. Instead, we will email everyone and ask who wants to volunteer. We will decide at the next meeting who will serve in which positions. All positions are temporary until we get a permanent structure for the RC.
- **Agenda items for July**
 - Confirm persons for each role and whether those positions are rotating or not.
 - Identify a few individuals who will serve on the search committee for a facilitator.
 - **Public Comment:**
 - A recommendation was made by Bill Orleans that we share the subcommittee updates with the public.
 - **Next meeting: Tuesday, July 18th at Municipal Building (Council Chambers) @7:00pm**