



Advisory Council on Reparations

Friday, February 16, 2024
2 PM – 4 PM
Meeting in person and via Zoom

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Meeting ID: 861 3247 5264

Passcode: 120589

COUNCIL APPROVED FEBRUARY MINUTES

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
 - a. January 19, 2024
 - b. Moved by: Bri
 - c. Seconded: Mike
 - d. Amended to finish the sentence under public comment
 - e. Passed by Unanimous Consent
4. Public Participation (up to 3 minutes per speaker)
 - a. No public comment
5. Council Response to Public Participation
6. ACR Retreat Date & Tentative Agenda
 - a. AAP: Refer to Page 7 of slide deck from Alize's Presentation
 - b. Appointments
 - i. Filling 4 seats on ACR
 - ii. Only two left are arts and working rights
 - iii. Justin will send appointment information to ACR staff
 - iv. Seats just filled: Education K-12, Post Secondary, Criminal Legal System, Transit
 - c. Proposed retreat dates: Saturday, March 16th: 10 - 6 or 9 - 5

- i. Location: Conference room at County Farm Park
 - ii. Saturday, April 6: 9-5
- d. Proposed Retreat Agenda
 - i. Alize worked on this with the facilitators
 - ii. Is there anything that you feel is essential that needs to be covered that you feel is not on here?
 - iii. JS: Would like materials in advance, especially surrounding Harm & Impact Report
- e. All Council members present committed to 2 hours of pre work

7. Community Engagement

- a. AW: We need to focus on areas that we can get pure feedback from the community
- b. Black churches, make announcements at community hours in order to get individuals aware.
- c. JS: We might want to do several each quarter, because doing one is not going to be as pointed as getting all members of the community.
- d. Outreach focused on each community
- e. ATM: Would like to be in spaces where people are living and recreating to host listening sessions. What is the purpose of this event? Is this listening to the community, are we asking them what we want to know about? Are we posing questions? Or is this just us listening to the community.
- f. Was thinking about this as canvassing the community.
- g. Parkridge community meetings
- h. AW: Messaging and getting the word out that we are here doing this work and inviting citizens to come, participate, and be heard is one focus. Then through the channels we have identified, inviting them to join us for a listening session. Asked Alize what she thinks is best.
- i. AAP: Depends on what we are trying to do. In terms of solicitation of feedback and engaging directly with community, that is not something that staff should do instead of council members.
- j. AW: reiterated his point from above.
- k. JS: Suggests subcommittee to plan, coordinate, and enact community hours.
- l. AAP: Believes this is a good space to utilize a subcommittee?
- m. What are you hoping to gain from community outreach?
- n. Is it to pull folks into community?
- o. Solicit feedback on final project?
- p. JS: Anna suggested talking about this at the retreat, but Julie believes we should get going and move this forward sooner. If we had a subcommittee to address all of it, could we create a letter & flyer that asks existing organizations to allow us to come and talk to them?
- q. AW: Wants opinions on what they think reparations are, and he prefers that the process is organic.
- r. JS: Where are we supposed to be by December?
- s. AAP: Create recommendations for actions -

- t. JH: Annual Report
- u. AAP: Not what the resolution says
- v. JS: That seems too fast, doesn't understand the timeline.
- w. ATM: Her understanding is similar to Alize's interpretation. Question- believes that we need more than 2 hours to talk about this, can this be added to the retreat agenda. Would like to spend time at the retreat talking about the level of community engagement that we want, staff feedback on when we get community feedback on the report and getting them involved in the process before the council turns the report into the BOC.
- x. MS: Very concerned that we do not have the documentation of the history of discrimination in Washtenaw County that we need in order to put this report together.
- y. Other communities have had serious, hard hitting reports on this history. Skeptical that this Council can create a helpful report of recommendations.
- z. AAP: We have an active partnership with the Center for Social Solutions that can do research with us. Crafting Democratic Futures has been working with 15 different universities around the country. We are the only County Government that is working with them.
- aa. AW: How do we get this report, how do we get this report?
- bb. MS: It is not just getting a report, it is analyzing it, interpreting it, and it might be bigger than just data from the County. University of Michigan is doing a great project- but we need more than just technical reporting. We need interpretation.
- cc. JS: If we have a standing relationship with them, then by August will they have data for us to look at that is diving into archives, and determining harm, how much was the harm, that we are trying to repair?
- dd. AAP: A lot of this work has already been done. I have been working directly with them and meet with them once a week as part of a team.
- ee. MS: Can we meet with them? Can we invite them to a meeting?
- ff. JS: What about the specifics of what occurred in Washtenaw County? Are there specific harms that the County government created?
- gg. AAP: Believes that the Council needs to do this specific research.
- hh. MS: Would love to hear from Center for Social Solutions, this makes him feel more optimistic.
- ii. JS: Enough to finalize a report by December?
- jj. AAP: Believes that this is an aggressive timeline.
- kk. AW: What do we do about this?
- ll. AAP: This is a decision that you are all going to have to make.
- mm. AW: Community members who can give a lot of feedback on the harms.
- nn. AAP: I don't hear consensus on how we want to enact community meetings.
- oo. ATM: Believes that we need to get clear on the purpose of our community engagement, shouldn't just be inviting folks to the LRC. Wants to talk more about what the purpose should be.
- pp. JS: Would like to form a subcommittee to bring a fully formed plan around community engagement to the retreat.

- qq. ATM: Does not think that the only way forward is to create a subcommittee, but is okay with getting together to present it at the retreat. Wants to ensure that the work isn't being led by folks who are not on the committee
- rr. Would like to be on the subcommittee- first week of March looks very open.
- ss. AAP: Clarifying Question- Subcommittee for Community Engagement
- tt. MS: Moves that we form a subcommittee for community engagement**
- uu. Seconded by: Bri Carpenter**
- vv. Moved by Consensus**
- ww. AW: Andre, Anna, Bri, Julie would like to be on the subcommittee.
- xx. Would like to have a meeting soon- Proposing March 5th 9 AM at the Elks Lodge in Ann Arbor.
- yy. Including Crystal Campbell
- zz. JS: Committee will come back with a proposal for dates
- aaa.

8. Film Screening

- AAP: The Cost of Inheritance, Center for Social Solutions is one of the producers of the documentary film
- Great framing of the discussion on reparations although it does not take a position.
- MS: Believes that we should be doing a screening.
- AAP: We can do some research on where to host this film. Would like to suggest a few months lead time. Perhaps a good Juneteenth event.
- JS: Ypsilanti Library could be a good space to show this movie

United Nations Framework of Reparations

- AAP: Suggests that the council begin thinking about their working definition of reparations
- Slides 4, 5, 6 of the
- ICTJ slide is very useful because it distills many factors down.
- Member of the public: Virginia Ladisch
- Definitions often focus on compensation, which is important, but there are many areas that can make up reparations.

AW: Any other questions or concerns? ATM was not able to get anyone for art or workers rights, but we need support in those areas.

ATM: Working on arts.

JS: Working on arts as well.

JH: If you all want more appointed, we can continue to have that conversation as folks apply. Once all the sectors are filled, you can have folks appointed that do not necessarily fill the sectors.

9. Adjourn

MS: Moved to adjourn

AW: seconds

All consent