



Advisory Council on Reparations

Friday, December 15, 2023

2 PM – 4 PM

Meeting in person and via Zoom

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Meeting ID: 861 3247 5264

Passcode: 120589

DECEMBER COUNCIL APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
 - a. Present: Bri Carpenter, Justin Hodge, Michael Steinberg, Julie Steiner, Conan Smith, Anna Taylor-McCants, Brandon Tucker, Andrew Watson
 - b. Absent: Hazelette Crosby-Robinson
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Moved by: Justin
 - b. Seconded by: Conan
 - c. Approved: Unanimously Approved
4. Public Participation (up to 3 minutes per speaker)

- a. None

5. Council Response to Public Participation

- a. None

6. Overview of Reparations Efforts Across the United States

- a. Presentation by Alize Asberry Payne, Racial Equity Officer
 - i. Full presentation attached to Minutes
- b. Ypsi Study on Covid-19:
 - i. <https://www.washtenaw.org/DocumentCenter/View/30007>
- c. Harvard Study:
 - i. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953621000733#>
- d. Link to Reparations Documentary airing on MLK Day:
 - i. <https://www.amdoc.org/pressroom/cost-inheritance-america-reframed-special/>
- e. California Reparations Report:
 - i. <https://oag.ca.gov/ab3121/report>
- f. Questions:
 - i. What is the scope of this Council?
 1. AAP- We can offer recommendations, but do not have legislative authority. Do not be confined by figuring out how to make it work, you can think big and make grand recommendations.
 2. JH- Do the recommendations need to exist within the authority of the board?
 - a. AAP- No. This Council can make recommendations outside of what the County Board is capable of enacting themselves.
 3. AW- How long has the County been working on reparations?
 - a. AAP- County Government has been explicitly working on this for the last 3 years. Unsure of how long community members have been working on it.
 4. MS- All of these programs had people documenting the history of discrimination within their jurisdictions. Many

researchers, PhDs, etc. Believes we should develop a plan for hiring these folks. Would the County hire folks for this council?

- a. JH- Suggests passing a resolution to hire staff for the council.
5. AW- Agrees, summarizes that consensus of the group is to hire someone.
6. CS- Extra support is necessary to get us to the point where we want to go. Suggests we should outline what that looks like in order to secure a budget to get this done. Believes the group should define deliverables.
7. AW- Let's work to define these roles.
 - a. MS- we need a group to author a report on the history of discrimination in Washtenaw County and done by Washtenaw County to support it if it is ever challenged in court.
 - b. What do we need? A resolution?
 - i. AAP- framing what you are trying to get out of the process will help inform what types of support are needed.
 - ii. JH- You need to pass bylaws first, and then you can pass a resolution urging the hiring of staff.
8. CS- is Dr. Lewis's work here or is it national in scope?
 - a. AAP- National in scope.
9. AAP- I am hearing a few different things:
 - a. Taking some time to chart out and explore what this body thinks it needs and direction it wants to go from where we stand today
 - b. Without dedicated, directed support the project will not move in the way that it needs to move, and it will stall.
 - c. Guidance is to take initial time to do some of that initial development charting work and create a timeline for when you would like that work to be done.
10. AW- Agrees with this pathway forward.

11. MS- Did Evanston hire someone to lead the work? Can you bring us back a report of what staff exists on projects around the country?

a. AAP- They had someone who was leading the work for 20 years. Are there any community historians that we could identify to help?

7. By-law Discussion

a. The group was not comfortable deciding on voting consensus without MS being present.

b. MS- clarification on supermajority definition.

i. If we are going to aim for consensus, we should talk about how that works. His concern is that the committee does not reach roadblocks that prevent from doing work.

c. ATM- advocates for supermajority

d. CS- principles of consensus have us to have issues orientated conversations to seek understanding and even with the best understanding sometimes there is still division.

e. CS- Suggests setting at 2/3 of members present and pushing for consensus

f. BC- is there a way to still do it by member without creating a ratio that doesn't make sense.

g. CS- In a consensus process, you put forward a policy for consensus if no one disagrees, you go forward.

h. ATM- How we make decisions is important for how we move forward.

i. JS- Everyone feels the same way that you do, but the reality is that a potential situation could arise where we are not in 100% agreement. Does not think that we will always be there.

j. MS- We should always TRY to get to consensus, but there are very complicated discussions going on today to determine who should receive reparations. Should it only be decedents of slaves? Indigenous folks? All black people?

k. AAP- Points I would like to lift up:

i. It raises some concern for me that if there is a deep philosophical divide around the definitions that govern your

work that there could be a process that moves forward with 1/3 of your body that is uncomfortable with it.

- ii. It is not just about the outcome; it is about the way that the processes are made.
- iii. If you are not able to align around a fundamental framework of what justice or area of impact looks like, that is not an area that should be moved around but be worked through.
- iv. What decisions need to be made by consensus and what decisions are okay to be made by supermajority?
 - 1. MS- this decision would be defined by the Chair.
- l. JH- would hate to have 1/3 of the board say they don't agree with the final product.
- m. JS- Can we bring models to review?
 - i. MS- Can bring a quaker model
 - ii. ATM- vote by a supermajority if we also have a clause about whoever we determine in our phrase of justice/scope/etc. If people who fall into that category do not veto it.

8. Retreat

9. Adjourn