



Advisory Council on Reparations

Friday, March 15, 2024
2 PM – 4 PM
Meeting in person and via Zoom

[Join by Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 861 3247 5264
Passcode: 120589

MARCH DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
 - a. February 16, 2024
 - i. MS: Friendly amendment to clarify his statement
 - ii. Motion: MS
 - iii. Second: ATM
 - iv. Approved by consensus
4. Public Participation (up to 3 minutes per speaker)
 - a. No public comment
5. Council Response to Public Participation
 - a. No response
6. Welcome and introductions of new appointees
 - a. Ebbin Dotson
 - i. education post-secondary perspective, UM school of public health
 - b. Conan Smith
 - i. Environmental justice perspective, president of Michigan Environmental Council
 - c. Bri Carpenter
 - i. Housing perspective, Avalon Housing

- d. Mike Steinberg
 - i. Civil Law perspective, UM law clinic, ACLU, Justice Indeed
 - e. Daniel Fryer
 - i. Criminal law professor at University of Michigan
 - ii. Former prosecutor in Philly, has worked for ACLU
 - f. Andre Watson
 - i. Economic development perspective
 - ii. Financial work over the past 20 years in the black community, wealth manager, how it empowers community
 - g. Leo Pittman
 - i. Transit perspective
 - ii. Ann Arbor the ride operations manager
 - h. Anna Taylor McCants
 - i. Food Security perspective
 - ii. FedUp ministries, also a minister
 - i. Debi Khansabis
 - i. Professor in the School of Education at UM
7. ACR Retreat Discussion
- a. Retreat will be April 5
 - i. AAP: Everyone should have received a calendar invite with a hold.
Retreat will be taking place at our Parks head quarters
 - 1. Technical assistance partner with ICTJ will be coming to facilitate the meeting in person.
 - 2. ICTJ is the technical assistance partner on many local reparations efforts across the country including Detroit, Boston, and even global efforts.
 - 3. We are very lucky to have them on this.
 - b. AW: Food and snacks will be provided.
 - c. AAP: In the next week look out for the draft agenda, this will happen in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting so we want to make sure we are addressing topics that are important for that space.
 - i. I may push back a bit on topic suggestions to ensure we are making the most of our time.
8. Community Engagement Discussion
- a. ATM: Community Engagement Subcommittee – Andre, Bri, and Anna
 - i. Parameters of the conversation, how frequently, do we want to give a prompt? Or allow free flowing conversation, what does physical/emotional safety look like?
 - ii. Purpose statement: To amplify the voices of those that are most impacted, to collect information to work toward a solution, and to raise awareness around the work of reparations in Washtenaw County.
 - iii. Wants to hold 1 meeting a month for community engagement
 - b. AAP: There is not a mandate around community engagement, so you are all allowed to connect as much as you would like to around this.

- c. MP: Preference to limit speakers to folks who support reparations and what that might do to the credibility of what we recommend to the commission?
- d. ATM: If someone immediately follows a painful story with a negation of that story and pain. Believes that Commissioners should be the ones listening to the negative opinions of reparations.
- e. CS: It might be helpful to keep in mind what barriers exist to reparations as we engage community
- f. MS: We need to keep in mind that we are a public body and that we must adhere to the first amendment. Those who speak to the Commission might say “the council wouldn’t even listen to us.”
- g. AW: Appreciates the dialogue, but believes it is appropriate to have all voices in the room. We must professionally engage with any mockery, anger, etc. In order to present a credible project. This is not going to be comfortable but is ready to engage the community who is behind this work to go to battle.
- h. DK: From educational perspective I am thinking about the link that Alize sent out about the narratives surrounding themes of pushback- [Narratives Lab](#). Thinking about how we shift thinking, not how do we prohibit discourse.
- i. ED: As much of a supporter of action as anyone so hearing what ATM is saying is very important context- if we are asking them to comment on something what are we asking them to give us? Definitely in support of setting a goal and knowing what takeaways we want while we are in the space. Awareness building campaign around reparations at this point seems important.
- j. CS: Suggest in terms of community engagement should be not to conduct the community engagement but set parameters around how the community should conduct engagement. Would likely be easier for municipalities to create a safe space for conduct through the government.
- k. ATM: Do not want to make any promises. Should not set any false expectations. We want to record themes, solutions, and experiences. How do we want to proceed with this today?
- l. AW: Have 1 more subcommittee meeting and then present our conversations at our retreat about this topic and make a decision there.

9. Film Screening

- a. AAP: Cost of Inheritance film released recently. We have an opportunity to host a screening and bring in the filmmaker as a way to engage the public around the film
 - i. Proposed Dates from filmmaker: Monday, June 17 or Tuesday, June 18
 - ii. ATM: Preference is Monday
- b. AW: Bring the filmmaker in, host a panel, bring in folks from UM to participate in the topic.
- c. LP: African American Festival is June 1st, is that an option?
 - i. AAP: We can host an event without the director present, but it would be nice to have them present.
- d. AAP: Going with Monday, June 17th – will be a email communication between now and the next meeting
- e. MS: Just had an event at the Ann Arbor Public Library and the Ypsilanti Township Public Library

- f. EB: Would we be able to do a morning and afternoon showing at both locations?
- g. AAP: This is something that can be explored but might be difficult to secure same folks for multiple panels.

10. Other Discussions?

- a. ATM: Could we use the time left for progress on the community engagement discussion?
- b. AW: hardest part of this conversation is going to be how are we going to engage community and who are we going to allow into the space?
- c. LP: What does progress look like in this discussion?
- d. ATM: Would like to look at making a decision today, but I can put together a proposal for the retreat
- e. AAP: Articulate for the good of the whole "Community engagement with what purpose? With what structure?" Structure is important, asking community to react to something is more productive and will not create unintentional harm. It is important for integrity to process for what we are asking people to do. We need to get clarity in this room on what we want outcomes to be? April feels premature.
- f. EB: Alize needs to get a raise. We haven't gone through the process that Alize suggested. We need to go through the process before we can get out into the community.
- g. DK: Have there been concerns raised about this group to this point?
- h. AW: We are being proactive at this point.
- i. AAP: We received some hate mail around the conception of the group, but nothing outside of the scope.
- j. ATM: Lived expertise in this room, knowledge, experience in this room, but I need to be convinced that we should be doing the work in this room separate from in the community. I believe "nothing about us without us." Can we figure out where we all stand in this room and start making decisions?
- k. EB: The start is us in this room, and then we engage in the larger populus.
- l. DF: Found the discussion somewhat elusive, three different objectives- amplifying the voices of those impacted, collecting information, spreading awareness. May run into issues here.
 - i. Is the goal to learn or to educate?
 - ii. Separate the meeting into different sections and make sure that it is clear to those attending what the goal is.
- m. ATM: Thinks it is very important to frame the conversation for people in the space. We haven't defined what reparations means to each of us individually. What does community really mean to each of us?
- n. AAP: We need to have this conversation at the retreat space- we need to have a defining conversation and expectation setting.

11. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn: Leo
- b. Second: Bri
- c. Moved by consensus

DRAFT