



Advisory Council on Reparations

Friday, June 21, 2024

2 PM – 4 PM

Meeting in person and via Zoom

[Join by Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 861 3247 5264

Passcode: 120589

JUNE DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order

- 2:14 PM

2. Attendance

- Present: Bri Carpenter, Justin Hodge, Michael Steinberg, Julie Steiner, Anna Taylor-McCants, Asha Jordan, Daniel Fryer, Leo Pittman
- Absent: Hazelette Crosby-Robinson, Conan Smith, Brandon Tucker, Andre Watson, Debi Khasnabis, Ebbin Dotson

3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- May 17, 2024
- Corrected – 6 U: DF “working statement”
- Discussion of fist to 5
- Approved by consensus

4. Public Participation (up to 3 minutes per speaker)

- Curtis Davis, city of Ann Arbor
- Monique Jones

5. Council Response to Public Participation

- Commissioner Hodge response

6. Strategic Framework and Timeline

- Data Discussion – what data do people want to read?
 - ATM: What is the purpose of community engagement and working statement? If we have to prepare something for the BOC by December, let's have a backwards timeline process to determine what that is. We should create the framework moving forward together.
 - ATM: From the beginning, MS and JS have brought up the data, what data do we want and how do we ask for it?
 - MS: In order to develop a reparations plan, we have to understand as a council what we are repairing. We need to know the history of discrimination in Washtenaw County and what steps have the government taken to cause harm?
 - This will help us stand up to a legal fight. Evanston, IL example.
 - Discrimination in housing, policing, healthcare, and then develop a program to address those that is likely to stand up to a legal challenge.
 - Is challenged by the idea that we could create something by December. Center for Social Solutions work? This could help us create the agenda going forward.
 - JH: What does staff support look like going forward? What is the status with center for social solutions?
 - JH has a meeting with social solutions before the July meeting.
 - JH has spoken with the county administrator about funding for the reparations.
 - MS: With respect to the budget, we need an answer on what funding we have. If nothing has been done, we are going to have to hire someone. This is a huge undertaking. This would put us on par with Evanston.
 - JH: What is it going to cost to work with one or both of the groups? That will be a sizeable chunk of whatever budget we come up with. Is confident that we could have
 - JS: What is the contract with ICTJ?
 - JH: This would be more around facilitation, meeting organizing, etc. Center for social solutions (CSS) would be more about data facilitation.
 - ATM: Has talked to CSS, they have housing data they have used in Detroit that might be helpful with us. They are working very closely with ICTJ. Believes that it is very important that County staff are very involved in what we are doing, preferably someone from the Racial Equity Office.
 - ATM: Back to the data discussion:
 - Food insecurity around 48197, 48198
 - Perhaps we could start looking at things that are in our appointed areas
 - JS: Believes we need very specific data. We need hard data about policing, hard data about decisions made about where housing was/whether the county was

involved in redlining, whether the county had something to do with deeds, county involvement with healthcare/mental health

- ATM: Can we look at the county budget and see where the County is supporting food works?
- CC: Removal of the gault village highway exit is a great example of how the county has been implicitly involved in discrimination.
- MS: We don't just need the hard data, we need someone to synthesize it as well.
- JS: What about the Racial Equity Office Budget? Is it possible to use dollars from that budget to support this work?
- JH: Those dollars could likely be used for this work.
- ATM: Is there something we can collectively do while we wait for staffing/support? What do we want to learn together?
- JH: Can we come to an understanding on what we want from CSS?
- MS: Have you read the color of law? We need something like that, on housing for Washtenaw County. Suggests talking to department heads about how the work their department has discriminated against the people over time.
- JS: Human Rights Commission for the City of Ann Arbor, large archive of data going back to 1960s that exists in the University of Michigan library. Does city of Ann Arbor work change our scope?
- JH: No- we can continue to focus on the scope of Washtenaw County harms.
- DF: refocusing on the question of where do we want to be in December? Commissioner Hodge, what do you need? Is that just a broad outline? Is it having all the data?
- JH: Does not believe that there would be legal action based on recommendations alone, there would likely be legal action once there was action on behalf of the board of commissioners.
- JS: What are you hoping to take in December to the BOC?
- ATM: This is a bigger question; JH has not been giving a liaison report during BOC meetings.
- JH: This is not set up as a taskforce that has a sunset date, this is set up as a living body that will continue.
- AJ: Is there a way to protect this group for an extended period of time?
- JH: Does not believe this is a realistic issue?
- Community Engagement Discussion
 - What Commissioner Hodge should share with the full board
 - AJ: Suggests a survey to be put on the website for community members to fill out. Has also been working with the homelessness community, and they recently had an art show and that was helpful for the community.
 - MS: At one point there was a small committee to create a community engagement plan, has that gone anywhere?

- ATM: Bri, Andre, and Anna met and had a good conversation to create a plan, but got pushback when they brought it to the council. Determined to talk about it at the retreat and never talked about it.
 - If we figure out what the purpose of community engagement is – to amplify the voices of those that are most impacted, raising awareness, to work towards a solution to reparations.
- MS: Would there be public hearings for folks to come speak to?
- CC: Is the goal to ultimately provide the recommendation to the board that they can act on, or is the goal to collect narratives from residents around contemporary incidents of racism and discrimination? Or is it outside of those two realms?
- MS: Both, and one flows from the other
- JH: Reading from the resolution:
 - The plan will highlight ways that County policies have harmed Black lives and include specific actions to address redress in the sectors of **homeownership and access to other quality affordable housing, increasing business ownership and career opportunities, strategies to grow financial equity and generational wealth, closing the gaps in health care, education, employment and pay, neighborhood safety and fairness within criminal justice.**
- JS: Does it make sense to try and use these subject themes as a focus for our community engagement sessions? Also likes the idea of bringing data for them to react to. Can we share example from other communities?
- JH: Remember that if more than 7 folks attend the meeting, it becomes a meeting.
- ATM: Community Engagement Discussion team had feelings about whether or not to set parameters on what folks can share but should set a time limit on how long people can share.
- AJ: Suggests setting up different areas with private recording sessions for folks to be able to share their stories privately.
- CC: EMU has an oral history department, and they lend out their equipment.
- AJ: Access to free rental spaces.
- JH: Can we find a way to receive written/recorded public comment on the website?
 - Economics - OCED
 - Business Ownership and career opportunities
 - Grow financial equity and generational wealth
 - Employment and pay
 - Housing – BOC, OCED
 - Homeownership and access to quality affordable housing

- Safety and Justice – Sheriff's Office
 - Neighborhood safety and fairness within criminal justice
 - Health – Health Dept and CMH
 - Closing gaps in healthcare
 - Education
- ATM: Potential locations for community engagement sessions Community Family Life Center, Pastor Kraut's church, South side of Ypsi, Chelsea,
- AJ: Would work on setting the tone prior to the sharing to make it more welcoming
- ATM: Would like to plan 3-4 sessions this year, targeting different areas this year.
 - City of Ypsi, south side of Ypsi Township, city of ann arbor
- JH: What is the goal of these community engagement discussions?
- ATM: Would like to listen for themes, once we have the raw data and it has been synthesized, those themes will help us prioritize.
- MS: We are looking for ways to repair things that are happening now, so if folks have ideas for redress or remedies, that would be useful.
- AJ: A roadmap for who qualifies for receiving reparations.
- JH: Before we figure out who qualifies, we need to figure out what they qualify for.
- DF: Believes that we can table the question of "who qualifies" until more work has been done.
- JH: How has county policy harmed black lives; this narrows the scope of the work.
- MS: In these sessions, whoever is leading it, should probably keep bringing people back to the county. What did the county do wrong and what can the county do to fix the problem?
- DF: We can bring in Department heads to talk about the harm their department has done historically, but that opinion is going to be different than the one you receive from the black community, but I don't see them as mutually exclusive. Can this discussion happen together?
- ATM: By December we will be reporting, so we need to put some dates on the calendar for October/November, so we have months to prepare.
- MS: Will we have all of us there? Only some of us?
- CC: Subject matter experts attend the theme that aligns with their work.
- ATM: Goal for July is to have an expert from the county in one of the areas come to speak
- Relationship Building Discussion
 - ATM: Do we want to do another retreat?
 - AJ: Set up another date for a happy hour
- Movie Discussion

- Thursday in August, after work time

7. Adjourn

- 4:03 PM Approved by consensus

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