



Advisory Council on Reparations

Friday, July 19, 2024

2 PM – 4 PM

Meeting in person and via Zoom

[Join by Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 861 3247 5264

Passcode: 120589

COUNCIL APPROVED JULY MINUTES

1. Call to Order
 - a. 2:07 PM
2. Attendance
 - a. Present: Bri Carpenter, Hazelette Crosby-Robinson, Justin Hodge, Michael Steinberg, Julie Steiner, Anna Taylor-McCants, Debi Khasnabis, Asha Jordan, Daniel Fryer, Leo Pittman, Conan Smith
 - b. Absent: Brandon Tucker, Andre Watson, Ebbin Dotson
3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
 - a. June 21, 2024
 - b. Approved by Consensus
4. Public Participation (up to 3 minutes per speaker)
 - a. Emma Merritt-Cuneo, ICTJ, New York City
 - i. International nonprofit providing technical support to reparations around the county
5. Council Response to Public Participation
6. Council Leadership Update
 - a. JH: Andre Watson is stepping down as the Chair and resigning from the Advisory Council on Reparations. We will need to elect a new chair there are three options:
 - i. Commissioner Hodge can be Chair and remain a non-voting member
 - ii. A member of the Council can

- b. AJ: Would like for Commissioner Hodge to be Chair
- c. ATM: Believes that people would be less likely to accept this recommendation if JH is chair.
- d. MS: Doesn't understand why Justin being Chair would make an impact.
- e. JS: Agrees with ATM, believes it should be community driven, rather than elected official driven.
- f. JH: We should aim to elect a new Chair at the next meeting.
- g. DF: Does JH chair and other commissions/councils?
 - i. JH: Chaired board of health while a Commissioner, also chairs Urban County Board and remaining a non-voting committee member.
 - ii. DF: Has the same inclination as MS, does not see why a Commissioner chairing this board would make a difference in the final product.
- h. DF: Has anyone else resigned other than Andre?
- i. MS: When we come up with a plan, will Justin present it because he is the commission liaison?
 - i. JH: No, that would be members of the Council.
- j. AJ: Are we expecting anyone else to be appointed?
 - i. JH: We will need to fill all of the appointed slots before we can add any at-large members.

7. Strategic Framework and Timeline

- a. Monthly Meeting Topics – Housing, Economic, Health, Safety & Criminal Legal System
 - i. Which month?
 - ii. What speakers?
 - iii. Create standardized questions for Council to ask speakers
 - 1. MS: What do you know about the history of discrimination within their department? - How did what your department did intentionally/unintentionally hurt black people? Or by the County before the department existed.
 - a. Historical, before the time of their position
 - 2. MS: What would you like to see happen to address the disparities within their department? What can we recommend that would help address the disparities?
 - 3. ATM: These seem simple but also hard to answer- are we missing anything.
 - 4. DK: What are some of the racial tensions that have existed in your department current/historically? Ask it more broadly and then focus in on MS questions.
 - 5. JS: Describe the purview/scope of their department as a starting point.

6. MS: Disparities within the county in the work each department does, the vast majority of folks in the jail. Is there a difference in treatment for the populations in prison?
7. JS: I don't want a report on food deserts, I want a report on what the department did to make a food desert happen.
8. JH: We should finalize these questions before I reach out to a department head because I want to give them something to respond to.
9. DF: Would like to take a step back and talk about strategic framework questions, and then create specific questions for each department.
10. ATM: Some folks might not be able to see the whole picture, part of our work may be to detangle the web.
11. DF: What are we trying to accomplish by having them speak to us?
12. HCR: Where are we getting these questions from? Are we using something like the study that was done by the County about the disparities on the eastern side of the County?
13. ATM: We are coming up with them now, and are basing them on what we believe we need to know.
14. HCR: This is frustrating for me because I don't see that happening, and I don't see us talking to any black people. Are we just going to be a bunch of administrators talking to people who aren't black?
15. ATM: Appreciate that feedback- this is the first step in the process of hearing what the County can do and respond while we formulate responses to community.
16. DF: Believes this shouldn't be an isolated process- they have to happen concurrently. We may want to circulate some sort of readings to have a common discussion where we are all on the same page. If a member of the health department is coming to the next meeting, we could research questions we can specifically pose to that department head so we can all be on the same page.
17. JH: I am not committing to Jimena or a specific department head coming in August because I don't know her schedule, but we are working on scheduling this.
18. ATM: We also mentioned that if each month were focusing on a topic, we could also frame the community engagement discussions around that topic. We also need to frame what we should be listening for/questions we should ask at those.
19. HCR: Would like to advocate for changing the meeting times so that she can attend them and be more present. Also would be better for community members to attend.

20. DK: Wrestling with the education questions, what is the line of this is a county issue vs. this isn't a county issue?
21. CS: County Government, until the 50-60's, was a conglomerate of Township Supervisors.
22. JS: Should we invite Larry Kestenbaum for a history lesson on this topic?
23. DK: A lot of the inequalities are perpetuated by school districts competing for students?
24. CS: Sussing out the extent and role of the County is going to have in terms of education is going to be difficult.
25. JH: Some interaction with WISD is going to be important for these questions.
26. JS: We need to understand how these townships and counties interact together.
27. JH: We need to figure out how to engage around the education piece, but WISD has been great to engage on a number of projects, so perhaps they would be good to engage on this. There are going to be a lot of things that you all are going to want to make recommendations on, that the BOC doesn't have purview on. Perhaps we could include recommendations for other bodies to act on.
28. DK: Since we all have different areas of expertise, if we reach out to WISD, that each sector representative would meet with someone from that area first to warm them up and do some of our own assessment, and then bring them to the ACR.
29. CS: Believes that it is important we meet with these groups that we may not think have a big role in this, but they could "point the finger" at the county.
30. ATM: Can we divide ourselves right now based on what we should do?
 - a. Housing
 - i. Bri Carpenter – HAWC, SAWC, OCED
 - b. Education – Naomi Norman
 - i. Debi & Justin
 - c. Criminal Safety & Justice System (Eli, Sheriff Clayton)
 - i. Mike Steinberg, Daniel Fryer
 - d. Food Systems
 - i. Anna - Health Department and Food Gatherers
 - e. Health
 - i. Hazelette – Charles Wilson
 - f. Conan
 - i. Talk to old planners

b. Community Engagement Discussion

- i. Details for events
 - 1. What do we bring with us?
 - 2. What do we do after the event?
 - 3. Location, days, times, and promotional materials

8. Center for Social Solutions at University of Michigan

- a. JH: Potentially interested in helping, but the barrier is academic schedules. They gave us other options-
 - i. Brief conversation about getting 1-2 PhD students to commit time to this work, they are open to this work. We would need to come up with a project description/job description. We could potentially be able to get someone for the fall semester, but we can definitely get someone by January who could commit.
- b. MS: This is very disappointing news. I feel like a broken record asking what kind of historical research has been done and Alize said it has been done....but apparently nothing has been done?
- c. JH: Correct- this hasn't been done yet.
- d. MS: Doesn't think two PhD students without supervision is going to be enough to do what we have to do with all the areas of work we have to do. We need somebody full time who is not just a PhD student, but somebody with a PhD. Knows of somebody who might be available to do the work, PhD in history who is moving back to Ann Arbor.
- e. JS: Also very disappointed in this discussion, believes that Council was lied to for many months and she finds it outrageous.
- f. ATM: What is the ballpark idea of salary for this person? \$100K?
- g. JH: At this moment I can't say more than Alize is on leave and I won't be able to share more than that. Unfortunately, I learned that the historical work has not been done to this point despite us being told to.
- h. DF: Is it appropriate to hear from ICTJ on how did this work happen in the past? Were there multiple researchers that worked full time on this? Is this normal?
- i. EMC: How has the research been done in other cases? Is it normal to be hiring people?
 - i. Usually these reparations taskforces will come out of a truth and reconciliation commission. They have robust staff who work full time with research teams.
 - ii. California examples are held up as the model for this work. They have significant backstopping from DOJ, State Bodies, and fairly full-time robust teams.
- j. DF: Believes that this information confirms what MS has been saying about needing a full-time person. There is a smaller scale here, so it is possible that one person could do this work.
- k. ATM: Believes that the council needs to revisit the budget and make an ask to the BOC for a larger budget.

- I. MS: Believes there likely aren't people as uniquely qualified for this position as the person that I know.
- 9. Date and time of meeting
 - a. Ashley will send out a poll for the evenings
- 10. Movie Discussion
 - a. Screening will happen on September 12, 2024 at Westgate Library in Ann Arbor.
 - b. Link to register here: <https://kinema.com/events/the-cost-of-inheritance-12labu>
- 11. Adjourn- 4:04 PM