



Advisory Council on Reparations

Friday, August 16, 2024

2 PM – 4 PM

Meeting in person and via Zoom

[Join by Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 861 3247 5264

Passcode: 120589

AUGUST DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
 - a. July 19, 2024
 - b. Moved by Consensus
 - c. Page 4 section 6, letter G- typo “any”
4. Public Participation (up to 3 minutes per speaker)
 - a. Virginia Ladisch- Sent memo that answered the question of whether or not other reparations efforts from across the world have used
 - b. Justin Harper, Ypsilanti – Here to listen and see what folks are talking about. Wants to be helpful.
 - c. Anthony Morgan- There is an embarrassment of evidence that can be used for the purpose of reparations.
 - i. CS- would love to talk to Anthony
5. Council Response to Public Participation
 - a. CS: Welcome to the public
 - b. DF: Found the memo very helpful and believes that this work is something we should be focusing on going forward.
6. Chair Election
 - a. Nomination of Conan Smith
 - i. Moved by: Mike Steinberg
 - ii. Seconded by: Julie Steiner

iii. Third by: Hazelette Crosby-Robinson

7. Strategic Framework and Timeline

a. New Meeting Time Options

i. Thursdays 1-3 or 2-4

ii. Thursdays at 3:30, 4, 4:30, 1-3 PM, 4-5:30 PM

iii. Third Tuesday from 4 – 5:30 PM

b. Report out on assigned engagement from last meeting

i. Housing

1. Bri Carpenter – HAWC, SAWC, OCED

a. Meeting scheduled for next week with Jennifer Hall.

ii. Education – Naomi Norman

1. Debi & Justin

a. Justin is reaching out to Naomi today.

iii. Criminal Safety & Justice System (Eli, Sheriff Clayton)

1. Mike Steinberg, Daniel Fryer

a. Eli has agreed to meet with Mike and Daniel.

b. Outreach on-going with the sheriff's office

c. Is there a possibility of getting a sheriff's office representative to come to the meetings? AJ will be reaching out.

iv. Food Systems

1. Anna - Health Department and Food Gatherers

v. Health

1. Hazelette – Charles Wilson

a. Unable to get connected in the past couple of weeks.
Hazelette will be reaching out.

vi. County Planning

1. Conan

a. Tony Vanderworp was the last county planner and Bob Tetons who ran something similar to WATS. They are planning to meet in the next couple of weeks.

c. 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

d. Reparations Council Budget

i. Review draft budget Conan created

ii. DK: External Consultant Support would be folks who were running retreats?

iii. CS: This would be a bit of everything.

- iv. JH: The associate Dean of social sciences – there is the potential to get a PhD level intern that the University would bear the cost of. What they need from us is a scope of work, job description, so that they can move forward on the PhD level intern. This would be the PhD's primary project, this would likely be between 20-30 hours of work.
- v. MS: A full time professor would cost \$80K per year.
- vi. JH: Repurpose job descriptions for folks who worked in Evanston, other reparations councils around the country.
- vii. MS: There are people trying to fit in this work among their teaching and research and it stalls the productivity.
- viii. DF: We will be most successful by speaking with the folks who know the students best. If we put together a job description and get letters of recommendation, we might not find the person who is best suited to the task. It would be best if we could find someone who wanted to write their dissertation on reparations.
 - 1. Offered to write the scope of work for the candidate and also work to find the best candidate among academics.
- ix. MS: Asks DF if he agrees whether or not we should get a professor to agree to be the leader of the project?
- x. DF: If UM center is telling us that you will only give us one, we should select that one before moving forward.
- xi. JH: We were offered 1 maybe 2 PhD students that would be free for one year. Also a class that would make this their project for one semester.
- xii. MS: Skeptical about one community engaged project where everyone is doing their own project and no one is leading the vision to supervise the work. All of these papers can be helpful, but not strategy.
- xiii. DK: Can ICTJ not do this work for us? I share uncertainty on whether or not this is going to be fleshed out.
- xiv. JS: Likes the idea of a community/student led project but wants someone who is able to lead the project.
- xv. DK: question to Virginie- is research something that ICTJ can do?
- xvi. Virginie Ladisch- what we have done in supporting you all was through a grant to the University of Michigan that expired in June 2024. They are committed to being here even though that grant has expired.
 - 1. Archival research is not something that ICTJ can provide, it is not in their expertise level and what they would be best able to support us all with.
 - 2. Strategic thinking, guiding overall project is something that is more in the wheelhouse.

3. What exists already within the county office? Is it possible to compile information that exists and move it through the process?
- xvii. CS: From a budget perspective it would be helpful to have a research leader and a research team. Is it possible to have direct staff support from the Equity office?
- xviii. JH: It is possible to have staff repurposed for this work.
- xix. CS: We may need to go to the community foundation for extra resources or work with the city of Ann Arbor.
- xx. DF: If the goal is to get a professor in particular involved, we may want to reassess the relationship with the university. What sort of partnership is that? Is the University committed to helping Washtenaw county? It is within the power of the Dean, Provost, etc. to get a professor the release to do this work.
- xxi. CS: Likes this idea.
- xxii. JH: Will have a conversation about this.
- xxiii. CS: Asks DF- did I hear you say I would like for you to talk to have a larger strategic conversation with the University about this?
- xxiv. DF: Yes. I think this is a realistic ask.
- xxv. MS: Can I bring in someone to speak for 10-15 minutes. Matthew Countryman, he is coming back to school, went to Georgetown for awhile. He used to be the Chair of the dept of African American studies. He knows how to put these things together. He could tell us what is possible and what is not.
- xxvi. JS: I don't know that there is a champion that we could go to unless you are thinking of someone specific that could move the rocks and boulders that need to get moved in order to make this happen.
- xxvii. CS: Incoming chair of UM Regents is Katherine White, who might be someone who can move these boulders.
- xxviii. DF: We can at least make the ask.
- xxix. MS: Agrees that we should pursue all means. Worry that things don't happen very fast. When does the budget period end?
- xxx. JH: We will start looking at the county budget in the second meeting in September. I don't think it is unrealistic to get something in the budget.
- xxxi. HCR: Likes the idea of getting the university involved.
- xxxii. CS: Would like to lean on those with academic background – can you help sketch out what this looks like? Those with connections can you bring in Kathy (UM)-Conan, Cynthia (AA) - Justin, Matthew (UM Professor)-Mike. It is not going to be fast, but maybe we can get some seed money from the County and go from there.
- xxxiii. CS: External Support, Research Team
- xxxiv. MS: Are people interested in Michael Countryman coming to the meeting?
- xxxv. CS: Community Engagement portion of the budget

1. JS: does 48 assume that we are having 16 community engagement meetings per year over the course of 3 years.
2. CS: Possibly, but it could be flexible. What we want here is to give Justin a budget to work with on the commission.
3. DK: We have been so slow to get started, it is hard to imagine a world in which we will be able to have so many meetings. This could be a place where we cut down based on priorities.
4. CS: I don't want to presume what goes into a community engagement opportunity. This could be a contract with a community based organization that is already doing community work, and we will need to have money to deploy to them.
5. AJ: This doesn't seem like enough money.
6. DF: This seems like too much money.
7. CS: If we want engagement at scale, that involves a lot of process.
8. DF: What is the money being spent on? Can you give me an example of what the money has been spent on in the past.
 - a. CS: 1,000 community conversations that we had across SE Michigan, we built the architecture for how those conversations would happen and we asked community groups to host those meetings so that they could provide refreshments, summarize notes, and pay the folks putting them on.

xxxvi. CS: Last part of the budget is on Communications

xxxvii. JS: Is there any part of this budget that would go towards producing the report itself?

xxxviii. CS: Yes. Contracts, digital media marketing, public relations, etc.

xxxix.

8. Movie Reminders