



Advisory Council on Reparations

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

4 PM – 5:30 PM

Meeting in person and via Zoom

[Join by Zoom](#)

Passcode: 710245

NOVEMBER MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
4. Public Participation (up to 3 minutes per speaker)
5. Council Response to Public Participation
6. Acknowledgement
 - a. Council Charge
 - b. What it means to me
7. Guest Speaker: Washtenaw County Clerk Register Larry Kestenbaum
8. Strategic Plan Structure
9. Public Participation (up to 3 minutes per speaker)
10. Adjourn



Advisory Council on Reparations

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

4 PM – 5:30 PM

Meeting in person and via Zoom

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Passcode: 710245

DRAFT OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
 - a. Moved by ATM
 - b. Seconded by MS
 - c. Correction: Section 9, line 14- change Ann Arbor to Washtenaw County
 - d. Approved by Consensus
4. Public Participation (up to 3 minutes per speaker)
 - a. No public Comment
5. Council Response to Public Participation
 - a. No public comment
6. Acknowledgement
 - a. Council Charge
 - b. What it means to me: Hazelette Crosby-Robinson
 - i. Believes that this charge is very ambitious. I have lived in Washtenaw County for 73 years and retired from Washtenaw County Health Department after working there for 25 years.
 - ii. This is the right time to do this work. Wants us to be strategic in what our recommendations are to not create any more controversy than the topic of reparations already garners.

7. Report from the BOC Liaison
 - a. Commissioner Justin Hodge
 - i. Absent from meeting
8. Report from the Chair
 - a. Meetings with outside stakeholders
 - i. Commissioner Hodge has started liaising with the Ann Arbor City Council who is doing work.
 - ii. Met with Rita Chin who is the Associate Dean at Rackham Graduate School.
 1. They have been doing background research on reparations and would be happy to work with the County on this.
 2. They already have partnership in place with Community Action Network and Justice in Deed.
 3. They are hiring two individuals to do research.
 - iii. Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation
 1. Very high interest, very parallel interest, but not necessarily intersecting interest.
 2. Keen interest in understanding equity disparities currently and filling the gaps. They have hired a research team to do this research and work with us to align needs.
 3. They are willing to consider a grant proposal from the ACR to fund work.
 - a. MS: The research on disparities is not irrelevant to the work we are doing; it is important to be able to connect the link of past discrimination to what is happening today.
 - b. CS: OCED had an extensive database measuring disparities on all sorts of vectors. It hasn't been maintained, but it isn't that old. Can the County share this reporting infrastructure with the AAACF?
 - i. This is the [Opportunity Index](#).
 - c. MS: This database is looking at disparities in the County?
 - d. CS: Yes.
 - e. HCR: When you say the city council is also interested in collaborating do you mean Ann Arbor?
 - f. CS: Yes. They are waiting for a report from the City Administrator on how to implement it.
 - g. HCR: When I worked for CMH
 - h. CS: There is a systemic contributing factor to this issue- if the white community started with wealth and was able to grow that at a rate different from the black

community- and that wealth prohibits the community from qualifying for help. What does that mean?

b. Liaison Discussion

9. Updates on Outreach Progress

a. Report out on assigned engagement

i. Housing

1. JS: So far OCED has not responded to any request to meet with them. Believes there may be some misunderstanding about what the intent of the meeting was.

ii. Education

iii. Criminal Safety & Justice System

1. MS: Larry Kestenbaum has not been on our outreach list, but I am happy to reach out to him to speak about Deeds/restrictive covenants as well as the County Historian.
 - a. CS: Let's invite him to the November meeting.

iv. Food Systems

1. ATM: Shared notes on from the conversation.

- a. Food Gatherers is not a part of the government, so there was a hesitancy to name certain things.

- b. The County has never designated money for charitable food pantries.

- c. Washtenaw County food insecurity rate is around 42,000

- i. MS: Does FG keep track of the racial breakdown for folks with food insecurity?

- ii. MS: What is their position on the role of the County in food insecurity?

1. ATM: Couldn't get to the bottom on this question.

- iii. HCR: When the ARPA funds came and the County created the CPF committee, I was on that committee. None of the food pantries were awarded funds.

1. ATM: What did the County fund before Food Gatherers was created?

- iv. JS: What I hear you saying is that when they were talking about what the problem is that food insecurity wouldn't be a problem if people had good jobs, good housing, good wages, etc. Is that correct?

1. ATM: Yes

- v. JS: I agree with this, it makes me believe that ACR should be focused on helping folks build wealth.
- d. ATM: Things are so different in places that are zoned differently. Can we do anything about zoning?
- v. Health
 - 1. HCR: Met with Charles Wilson. Recorded conversation. When the health department wanted to have a COVID testing center in the Walmart, they were prevented in doing so by Ypsilanti Township.
 - a. AH will work with HCR to get the
 - 2. HCR: Can we offset the cost of research based [Community Based Participatory Research Grant](#).

10. County Budget Process

- a. AH: Speaking on behalf of Commissioner Hodge
 - i. October 16- Budget reaffirmation on Items for Current/Future Discussion
 - ii. November 6- Budget reaffirmation on Items for Current/Future Discussion
 - iii. November 20- Budget reaffirmation on first reading
 - iv. December 4- Budget reaffirmation on second reading
- b. MS: Is there anything that CS wants folks on the ACR to do?
- c. CS: If you have a personal relationship with a Commissioner can you please let me know so we can coordinate outreach?
- d. ATM: We are asking for money in the budget?
- e. CS: Yes. A lot of what we were looking for can come to the County in-kind through community organizations/institutions doing the work. But the \$150,000 is something that we will need to be allocated. I will create talking points
- f. MS: Did you already submit the proposal?
- g. CS: Yes, to GD & JH. I will share with ACR as well. We will also create a central depository for documents.
- h. CS: If there is an ongoing current practice that exacerbates the issues we are trying to redress, it may not be the County's doing, but it doesn't hurt for us to say "you are actually making this problem worse and continuing the challenge."
- i. HCR: Is there anyway we can go to the Planning Commission or have them come to us?
- j. CS: This is possible. If we identify housing as one of our fundamental challenges and we know existing zoning is exacerbating the disparity and we are able to geographically map where that issue is the largest, perhaps we can have an education session.

11. Discussion on Committee Structure and Charges

- a. CS: Would like to propose three committees- Research, Public Education, and Community Engagement Committee
- b. MS: Did you consider any other committees?
- c. CS: Yes and no, they all fell into these three buckets in my opinion. We have multiple kinds of research, both past and present.
- d. MS: I agree that this is a good idea.
- e. DK: I appreciate the work you have done on this. How are Public Education and Community Engagement different? They feel very similar to me. Public Education seems to be more about ensuring community leaders understand the work we are doing. Community Engagement seems to be more about learning from people. Do we want to be engaging with/providing education to community members who don't understand/need education?
- f. HCR: I believe we need both.
- g. CS: Do you have thoughts about the structure or how it integrates?
- h. DK: The ways that we engage with different constituents would be very unique. However, I am getting stuck on the fact that I see both Public Education and Community Engagement as community engagement.
- i. HCR: Are we going to talk to black people in the community? Nothing about me without me.
- j. DF: I am with DK on this. Thinking about our charge and why we are here. In order to do this, we need to have information, and we can get that through research and community engagement. I don't see public education as a part of our charge from the County. I look at this in inputs and outputs.
- k. ATM: I can see why these are separate categories. I think public education is something we need to be doing to get community engagement. I feel like perhaps public education might not be a committee but rather a taskforce to set up community engagement.
- l. DK: One other idea, I liked the idea of input/output orientation. If more than public education, is it public dissemination? This is another branch of the work- the actual writing and getting the information out to the community.
- m. DF: When I saw the three charges, none of these actually get to our primary charge which is a recommendation to the county. The research charge is framed with that in mind. An output is going to be a combination of all three of these charges.
- n. ATM: I want to talk about what we are learning, researching, seeing, etc. But I hesitate to make any of it public until we are really ready. I don't want to create more work for us.

- o. CS: It sounds like we need two committees- Research and Community Engagement.

12. Strategic Plan Structure

- a. CS: Please review this before the next meeting.
- b. JS: Will be resigning from the Council. Thank you for everything and I wish you the best of luck moving forward.
- c. AJ: Happy Hour: November 14th 4 – 6 PM

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

14. Adjourn