

Reparations Committee
Thursday, September 6, 2021
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, G300 9:00 AM

Minutes

Present: Councilmember Peter Braithwaite ,Chair; Bonnie Lockhart ,
Claire McFarland Barber , Robin Rue Simmons, Carlis Sutton

Absent: Councilmember Bobby Burns and Councilmember Devon Reid

Other Present: Kimberly Richardson, Deputy City Manager; Michelle Ozuruigbo, Deputy
City Manager; and Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to City Manager

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Committee member Simmons, seconded by Committee member
Lockhart to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2021 meeting. Motion carried
unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tina Paden spoke on her advocacy for cash payment and the discussion around an
administration cost to support reparation programs.

Brenda Grier spoke on the compensation to individuals that are sixty or seventy years
old.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Reparations Financial Donation Report

Tasheik shared that as of September 1, 2021, the City has received \$26,180.29 in
donations to the Reparations Fund. This represents an increase of \$871 from August.
Committee member Simmons requested staff send a thank you letter to those who
donate.

Review of the First Restorative Housing Informational Session

Councilmember Braithwaite reviewed the upcoming Restorative Housing Informational
Sessions dates. Committee member Simmons noted the sessions are helpful for the

public to attend. Deputy City Manager, Kimberly Richardson, provided a summary of the meeting. Richardson noted staff reviewed the application process with attendees and identified where the public could go for help with locating documentation.

Committee member Lockhart inquired about help for first-time homeowners. Committee member Simmons responded that she had contacted the Dearborn Real Estate Group to hold a community session.

Administrative Cost to Support Reparations

Councilmember Braithwaite noted "Evanston Owns It" had suggested that staff train individuals to help seniors with their applications. Pastors would appoint individuals from churches to assist with applications. Committee member Barber inquired whether volunteer support would be part of the process, especially intergenerational support. Deputy City Manager, Kimberly Richardson responded that volunteers often don't yield consistency. A stipend or a benefit could help with yielding consistency.

Committee member Simmons noted that the Evanston Branch of the NAACP has made themselves available to support the process. Simmons also mentioned that she is not in favor of utilizing the Reparations Program funds for the administrative costs and that organizations might provide financial assistance. She recommended staff put together a budget.

Committee member Sutton recommended staff reach out to churches, panhellenic councils, and retired individuals.

Economic Development and Community Participation

Councilmember Braithwaite noted the reparations resolution also directs the Committee to work on economic development initiatives. Councilmember Braithwaite suggested support be given to businesses in the redlined area of Evanston.

Committee member Barber mentioned she could invite financial consultants to present to the Committee regarding their services and on how they could look into the needs of the black business community.

Committee member Simmons requested staff share with the Committee the list of reparations priorities that were suggested by the community. Deputy City Manager Ms. Richardson recommended staff work with committee members to create a community engagement plan to build on top of those priorities. Committee member Sutton added that the Committee should look for more opportunities to engage the public. Committee member Simmons recalled the suggestion to conduct a participatory process.

Committee member Simmons noted the Committee has to develop a local case that addresses economic development redress.

Communication

Deputy Corporation Counsel, Michelle Ozuruigbo, introduced herself to the Committee.

Adjournment

It was moved by Committee member Barber to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee member Simmons. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 10:00 am