



Reparations Committee
Thursday, December 1, 2022 @ 9:00 AM
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, Virtual

**COMMITTEE MEMBER
PRESENT:**

Bobby Burns, Councilmember, Kristian Harris Councilmember, Devon Reid, Councilmember, Robin Rue Simmons, Committee Member, Bonnie Lockhart, Committee Member, Claire McFarland Barber, Committee Member, Carlis Sutton, Committee Member

**COMMITTEE MEMBER
ABSENT:**

STAFF PRESENT:

Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

A. Ancestral Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chair Robin Rue Simmons. Councilmember Harris read the Ancestral Acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Committee Member Sutton and seconded by Councilmember Reid to approve the November 3, 2022 Reparations Committee meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

3. DISCUSSION

A. Update on Graduated Real Estate Transfer Tax to the Reparations Fund

Chair Simmons announced the City Council accepted the Reparations Committee's recommendation to transfer \$1 million of the Graduated Real Estate Transfer Tax to the Reparations Fund. Committee Member Lockhart inquired about the timeline for when the funds would be available. Chair Simmons replied that funds would be made available on a rolling basis as real estate transactions above 1 million dollars are executed.

B. Review Equity & Empowerment Commission 2019 Reparations Recommendations - Wealth and Opportunity Gaps

Chair Simmons suggested the Committee look at the recommendations compiled by the Equity and Empowerment Commission in 2019 regarding the wealth and Opportunity Gaps in the black community. The recommendations influenced the work of the Reparations Committee. Chair Simmons reviewed the various forms of reparations, including satisfaction,

compensation, restitution, and rehabilitation. She also noted that other institutions need to be joining the work.

Councilmember Reid shared that at the time, the community might not have known whether it was feasible for direct cash payment, nor did they have as much information as the Committee. Chair Simmons recalled a community member, Ms. Paden, had brought up the idea of cash payments during the community meetings. The activists that arose were not part of those meetings, and the Committee moved forward based on consensus.

Committee member Barber noted she is interested in knowing from a legal perspective how the Committee could act as requests change.

C. RFQ 22-58 Housing Services Provider for The City of Evanston's Local Reparations Restorative Housing Program

Chair Simmons noted the Committee issued an RFQ for an administrator, and only one response was received from three collaborating organizations. The Committee had an initial interview with the submitter, and the Committee cannot make a recommendation at this meeting. It was noted that the Committee members had additional questions, and the submitter had other questions. Councilmember Burns pointed out the foreseeable challenge regarding the capacity of organizations to keep up with the level of disbursements.

D. Approval of the 2023 Reparations Committee Meeting Calendar

Councilmember Reid noted he favored the 10:00 a.m. meeting start time. Committee Members Lockhart and Barber stated they preferred the 9 a.m. start time. Committee Member Barber inquired about community members who are working. Councilmember Harris noted she is flexible. Councilmember Burns suggested an evening meeting might improve access, though he is still determining whether he can attend another evening meeting. Councilmember Burns recommended an email be sent to the Reparations Lisserv regarding options for the Committee meeting time.

It was moved by Chair Simmons and seconded by Councilmember Harris to hold the next Reparations Committee meeting on January 3, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. The motion passed. Roll Call (9 - 1); Councilmember Reid voted nay.

4. CONSIDERATION

There were no items for consideration.

5. COMMUNICATION

A. Reparations Financial Donation Report

Assistant to the City Manager, Tasheik Kerr, noted that as of December 1, 2022, the City received \$37,024 in donations. This represents an increase of \$500 from November.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Simmons announced there would be a Reparations Town Hall held at Evanston Township High School on Friday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m. around state and local reparations efforts.

JoAnna Welch shared she is grateful the Committee was able to create the reparations program. She inquired how soon she would be able to receive funding.

Vanessa Johnson-McCoy shared she is working with Connections for the Homeless on its zoning project. She noted the Reparations Committee might help get the word out.

Tina Paden shared she would like to see the reparations fund held in an interest-barring account at a bank. She also shared no nonprofits should hold or disburse funds. Ms. Paden suggested combining all reparations monies and reporting quarterly the amount in the fund. She also recommended that all income and expenses be reported quarterly. She advocated for cash payments and for Corporation Counsel Cummings to explain cash benefits.

Kamm Howard of N'COBRA invited community members to join the Reparations Town Hall at Evanston Township High School. He also shared there will be a press conference at 6 p.m. at the Orrington Hotel. Local leaders will call on the President to issue an Executive Order for HR 40.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Committee Member Lockhart and seconded by Councilmember Reid to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.