



Reparations Committee

Thursday, February 2, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, G300 (Hybrid)

**COMMITTEE MEMBER
PRESENT:**

Councilmember Krissie Harris,
Committee Member & Chair Robin Rue Simmons, Councilmember
Bobby Burns, Committee Member Carlis Sutton, Committee Member
Bonnie Lockhart, and Committee Member Claire McFarland Barber.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER
ABSENT:**

Councilmember Devon Reid

STAFF PRESENT:

Nicholas E. Cummings, Corporation Counsel; Tasheik Kerr, Assistant
to City Manager; Mari Johnson Deputy City Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m by Committee Member Lockhart.

A. Ancestral Acknowledgement

Committee Member Lockhart read the Ancestral Acknowledgement.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REPARATIONS YOUTH ART CONTEST WINNERS

Winners of Youth Art Contest: Maia Faith Hadaway, Javahya Wright, Asiah Williams Margo
Stonebraker

3. TESTIMONIALS

Ndona Muboyayi stated that it is very difficult to purchase affordable homes in Evanston unless you are extremely wealthy. She also shared she is proud of the work that is being done but wants more to happen.

Brenda Grier shared she experienced housing discrimination when she was a young single mother. Brenda also shared that when working at the Evanston Police Department, they filed claims that went nowhere. She hopes in the future, things will change with discrimination.

Michele Ranger, 5th generation Evanstonian, shared they are proud of Evanston, but there is still room for change. For example, some parts of Evanston have beautification, but other parts of Evanston do not.

Nick Murphy shared their support of the program and stated how proud they are of the program. They suggest a sign be placed at the entrance of the City that says "first to reparations". They also share there is still room for improvement.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the December 1, 2022 and January 5, 2023 Reparations Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Councilmember Harris and seconded by Committee Member Barber to approve the December 1, 2022 Reparations Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion passed. Roll call (6-0). Committee member Lockhart moved to approve the meeting minutes for January 5, 2023. Seconded by Councilmember Harris. Roll call (6-0).

5. DISCUSSION

A. Approval of the Reparations Committee's Meeting Time

It was moved by Committee member Lockhart to move the Reparation Committee's meeting time to 9 AM on the first Thursday of the month. Committee member Sutton seconded the motion. Roll call (6-0).

B. Approval of Contract Extension with CPAH and Direction to Staff Regarding Ancestor Recipients

Chair Simmons suggests a limited extension to the CPAH agreement so more benefits can be distributed while the Committee looks for a more long-term solution.

There is a possibility to have a contractor fair in Evanston to hire more Black contractors for the reparation program.

The Committee discussed whether to pursue a short-term contract. Chair Simmons shared that CPAH can continue the work while the Committee aids them in finding more black contractors. Councilmember Sutton opposed extending the contract for any amount of time, he suggested hiring staff to implement the program. Committee member Lockhart would like to move forward and extend the contract to support ancestors in the meantime.

Committee Member Lockhart moved to extend the contract with CPAH for 90 days. Councilmember Burns seconded the motion. Chair Simmons supported the motion and noted she supports a designated staff for a more long-term solution. Roll Call (5-1). Committee member Sutton opposed the motion.

C. Recap of City Council's motion to transfer an additional \$3 million from the City's Real Estate Transfer Tax

It was shared that the City Council approved a resolution to transfer \$3 million from the City's Real Estate Transfer Tax to the Reparations Fund. The first \$3 million will be directly

deposited right into the Reparations Fund. It was also noted that it is not possible to predict whether all the funds will be deposited by May or December because it depends on the sale of properties.

D. Providing Transparency regarding the amount in Reparations Fund

Mr. Clayton Black, Budget Manager, shared they can be very transparent when it comes to sharing the amount of Real Estate Transfer Tax and donations received. However, the City cannot share the revenue received from the tax on cannabis. According to the Illinois Department of Revenue, they can not disclose information until they have 5 such businesses in the community.

6. CONSIDERATION

A. Review of Restorative Housing Job Descriptions

No discussion

7 REPARATIONS COMMUNICATION

A. Approval to Hold Quarterly reparations Committee Listening Sessions

In an effort to have more engagement with the community, there will be quarterly listening sessions where members hear from the community. Chair Simmons moved to have listening sessions in lieu of the committee agenda. Councilmember Burns seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote (6-0).

B. SMS (Text) Notifications for the Reparations Committee Meetings

SMS (text) notifications for reparation committee meetings will be available. Residents will need to sign up to receive those text notifications. The link to sign up has already been sent in the normal monthly notification email.

8. COMMUNICATION

A. Report - Reparations Stakeholders Authority of Evanston and Interfaith Action of Evanston

Dino Robinson from the RSAE provided a report. He mentioned there was a brief pause in meetings in the latter part of 2022, but meetings will resume in February 2023. A website is being worked on to gain more visibility in the community to understand what the RSAE is. This past MLK day, multiple congregations announced that for the remainder of the year, they would raise money for reparations work.

B. Reparations Financial Donation Report

As of February, the city received \$42,931 in donations to the reparation fund

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anthony Swope shared that his wife, Eleanor Swope made a transition in life. Eleanor is a reparations recipient.

Brenda Grier shared inquired how the reparations money benefits her children who do not and can not live together. She noted Many seniors had sold their homes, so they no longer

own them. How is the City going to compensate those who have been discriminated against, specifically her generation? she hoped in the future there is a way to compensate those on housing and fixed income, people who are getting benefits for medical expenses, without hurting them financially. She suggested a cash benefit paid similar to the stimulus money.

Eva Holland shared that the Ancestor recipients should not be decided by a committee. Additionally, she stated there need to be more community activities to keep people informed.

Kenneth Wideman, speaking for himself and his sister, shared that he got a call they would be taken off the reparations list in March. They do not have property in Evanston and asked how they can get something out of the Reparations before they are taken off the list in March. He inquired whether there could be any provisions or changes that would help them.

Tina Paden shared that the money for reparations should be held in a bank in an interest-bearing account. It should be up to the Reparations Committee to find a Black bank to hold the reparation money, and no for-profit bank should be involved in handling or holding money. Also, consider talking to Northwestern about reparation. Ms. Paden shared cash reparations would have been more beneficial, especially for seniors.

Priscilla Giles mentioned her disappointment in the small number of people the reparations program benefits. She recommended all Black residents in Evanston should benefit.

Ndona Muboyayi asked when will the City of Evanston take the next step, which is economic development.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.