



## **Reparations Subcommittee Meeting**

**Friday, February 7, 2020**

**12 p.m.**

**Lorraine Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Aldermanic Library**

### **Minutes**

**Committee Present:** Ald. Robin Rue Simmons; Ald. Ann Rainey

**Committee Absent:** Ald. Peter Braithwaite

**Others Present:** Kimberly Richardson, Acting Asst. City Manager; Nicolas Cummings, Deputy City Attorney; Gabriella Johansson, CMO Intern; 23 guests

#### **1. Called to order/Declaration of Quorum:**

Ald. Simmons called the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Ald. Simmons announced the addition of Deputy City Attorney Cummings to the Committee's staff support. Also, she announced the upcoming Evanston Community Day event on Saturday, February 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Morton Civic Center. The workshop is about building black wealth through homeownership.

#### **2. Approval of January 10, 2020 Minutes**

Ald. Simmons made a motion; Ald. Rainey seconded the approval of the January 10, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **3. Discussion Items**

##### **a. Community Outreach**

Ald. Simmons noted that the committee is looking for ways to keep the community informed as well as ways to gather feedback. She added that residents have started to form meet-up groups to discuss reparations. The Committee will be developing a guide for leaders of those groups.

Ms. Richardson updated the Committee on the status of the community outreach efforts. Staff created a facilitator guide to distribute to community members interested in hosting small group conversations around the focus areas identified by the Committee. Staff is waiting feedback from the Committee members before releasing the document to the public.

**b. Reparations Subcommittee Timeline**

Ald. Simmons reviewed the Reparations Subcommittee Timeline. Over the coming weeks, the Committee's meetings will focus on housing and redlining in Evanston, financial and local banks, mental health and emotional healing in Evanston, and exploration of partnership with local businesses in Evanston. A community townhall will take place the week of May 11, 2020. In June, a preliminary report will go to City Council.

**4. Public Comment**

15 community members provided public comment.

Concerns and issues shared included the longevity and source of financing for reparations, R1 Zoning, the prioritization of actions and certain populations, housing discrimination, and black history curriculum in schools. Community members also shared several solutions to these issues and concerns such as providing incentives for senior homeowners and job training for young people, obtaining input from landlords who provide affordable housing, connecting the affordable housing fund with the reparations program, utilizing the techniques in the economic system to grow the 10 million dollars reserved for reparations, and building affordable housing on vacant lots in the 7th ward.

**5. Schedule for Next Meeting:**

Friday, March 6, 2020

**6. Adjournment**

Ald. Simmons made a motion to adjourn, Ald. Rainey seconded.  
Meeting adjourned at 1:16 pm