



Reparations Subcommittee
Friday, January 22, 2021
9:15 AM
Minutes

Alderman Robin Rue Simmons motioned to suspend the rules to permit members to convene via a virtual meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Call To Order/Declaration Of A Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Alderman Robin Rue Simmons. Committee members Alderman Ann Rainey and Alderman Peter Braithwaite were present. Staff members Nicholas Cummings and Tasheik Kerr were also present. Assistant City Manager Kimberly Richardson was absent.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Alderman Braithwaite, seconded by Alderman Rainey to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2020 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Communication

Finance

Tasheik shared that as of January, the Reparations Fund received approximately \$17,000 in donations. Alderman Simmons thanked St Nicholas Roman Catholic Church and Mack's Bike & Goods for their financial donation. Mack's Bike & Goods plans to donate 1% of its business revenue to the Reparations Fund.

Alderman Simmons shared that Nina Kavin, Executive Director of Dear Evanston, used her birthday to highlight reparations. Nina raised \$1200 for the Evanston Community Foundation Reparations Fund.

Discussion

Reparations Survey

Tasheik provided an overview of the reparations survey. Tasheik noted the survey would be used to identify, prioritize, and quantify individuals for the City of Evanston local reparations. Tasheik noted the survey would be distributed via SurveyMonkey. Tasheik mentioned she would share the survey with black institutions in Evanston.

Alderman Simmons requested staff draft a statement indicating the housing initiatives are the initial remedy policies of the City of Evanston local reparations and that more work needs to be done. Alderman Rainey recommended staff place a statement on the survey indicating the survey is not an application. The survey would be used to gather interest. Alderman Simmons added the survey would help the Subcommittee understand the demand for reparations funds.

Public Comment

Joan Rothenberg inquired about the differences between the City of Evanston's Reparations Fund and the Evanston Community Foundation's Reparations Fund.

Ndona Nyomo requested the creation of a council of legacy Evanstonians to oversee the actions of the fund and the Reparations Subcommittee.

Lori Keenan requested the Subcommittee provide further clarification of the City of Evanston's Reparations Fund and the Evanston Community Foundation's Reparations Fund. Lori also recommended that the Subcommittee brings more awareness to the reparations effort through an education campaign.

Tina Paden stated there needs to be cash payment. Tina shared that the housing initiatives do not address folks that have been harmed. Tina Paden also recommended the survey be distributed in other ways.

Carlis Sutton commended the Reparations Subcommittee. Mr. Sutton suggested the survey be shared with churches, NAACP, fraternities, and sororities.

Melody Bickhem recommended the Reparations Subcommittee consider health and mental health disparities. Melody suggested individuals assist the elderly with resources provided by the Reparations Fund.

Gretchen Brewster inquired about the research about racial practices in the city. Gretchen recommended including examples of discrimination in the survey.

Prisilla Giles noted she is disappointed that there is not yet a plan for the reparations funds. Prisilla shared that reparations should include everyone that was discriminated against in the City of Evanston.

Sarah Vanderwicken shared that more emphasis needs to be placed on the fact that reparations are important for the whole community as well as for the people that will directly benefit from them.

Adjournment

Alderman Rainey moved the meeting be adjourned (Roll Call 3-0). The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.