

Logistics Committee
Minutes
4-29-2020

Call to Order: 10:13 AM

Commissioners Present: Timothy D. Baker, Tamara Wilson, Gary Norman, Charles Chavis, PhD

Staff Present: Will Schwarz, Maya Davis, Chris Haley

Agenda Items:

- Emmett Till Grant Overview and Hearing Timeline
- Maryland Lynching Memorial Project Coalition Meeting
- Public Hearing Updates

Emmett Till Cold Case Grant Overview

Tim Baker opened the meeting by stating the intent of the agenda to review the Emmett Till Grant and the proposed updated timeline. Charles Chavis addressed the intent to pursue the grant shared information on the process in submitting the DOJ Grant. He shared that he has requested and received letters of support from restorative justice experts Naomi Tutu and Susan Hirsch and the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project county coalitions. The grant funds will go towards historical research in the first year, hearings the second year, and reconciliation in the third year. Commissioner Chavis, proposed that a minimum of \$100,000 of the grant be used towards a Restorative Justice Fund to feed back into the community and victims impacted by the lynchings. The legal team from the Maryland Office of the Attorney General will submit the grant on behalf of the MLTRC. The information from the grant needs to be submitted for review from Delegate Pena-Melnyk by Thursday, April 30, 2020 prior to the submission deadline. Outstanding needs include: Commissioner CVs and restorative justice framework.

Questions:

- Is there any line in the budget for administrative cost?

Charles urged the committee to push back the dates of the hearing timeline and instead use the first year to identify descendants. \$10,000 has been designated in the grant application for a professional genealogist to identify descendants. Other costs included in the grant application are recording, streaming, and transcription contracts and sign language interpreters for all hearings. Logistics Committee Chair, Tim Baker supported the idea of the hearing timeline being pushed back. Once voted on by the full Commission, Maryland Archives Staff will work on modifications to the hearing template.

Maryland Lynching Memorial Project Coalition Meeting

Will Schwarz gave a report of the MLMP meeting which took place Saturday, April 18, 2020. Tim Baker gave a presentation on the hearing template to the members of the county coalition.

Following the presentation coalition members asked questions and made recommendations. Maya Davis shared some of the inquiries, concerns, and recommendations from the Zoom chat feature shared by the coalitions and will follow up with an email to the logistics committee with an attachment of the file. Mr. Schwarz suggests having a commissioner connect with each of the coalitions and attend the meetings. Mr. Chavis recommends having a template for engaging the coalitions for support on research, hearings, and reconciliation.

Public Hearing Updates

Chris Haley shared with the Logistics Committee that he is currently reaching out to security organizations for the hearings. He spoke with a few sites that indicated the Committee should work through hearing host sites, which would then be responsible for seeking out security. The Office of Emergency Management was contacted to find information for security. It was recommended that we bring the coalition into the discussion to assist with host sites.

Mr. Baker reported on creating more structure and documentation related to receiving documents from the public. The discussion moved into striking a balance in what we collect and sensitivity of how the material is used and our responsibility to gather this information.

Commissioner Norman suggested a legal review and supported the idea of a liaison to work with the county coalitions and offered to serve as such for Baltimore County. He recommended reaching out to trauma specialists for mental health concerns at the hearings as the MLTRC does not have the resources or expertise. Mr. Norman also recommended that the Commission consider creating partnerships via M.O.U.s to deal with this (i.e. partnering with Md. Health).

Next Steps:

- Commission can enter into an MOU with a public body.
- Chris Haley will continue to reach out regarding security during the EEO virtual meeting.
- Commissioner Chavis will reach out to Trauma specialist.
- Commissioner Norman will look at the most recent version of the timeline commenting.

Public Member Crystal Carpenter from the Prince George's County coalition shared her interests and recommendations. She posed the following question to the Commission: Is the Connection being made between the historic lynchings and modern day issues such as mass incarceration? She used the EJI model as an example and shared Brian Stevenson's purpose. Charles Chavis spoke about this work being associated with the Reconciliation Committee and offered Ms. Carpenter an opportunity to stay engaged with that group.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:37 PM