

MLTRC Logistics Committee Minutes

April 22, 2024

Attendees: Amy Millin, Elizabeth Hughes, Teisha Dupree-Wilson, Trish Boyle (MD OAG), Hannah Lane (MSA staff), Emily Oland Squires (MSA staff)

Absent: Lindsey Baker, Chris Haley, and Maya Davis

The focus of the meeting was to conduct a debrief, using a logistics lens, of the April 2024 Frederick County Truth and Reconciliation Hearing. Discussion centered on themes of what went well and areas of improvement. Key takeaways will help to inform planning for future Hearings and support the Commission in meeting identified goals.

Questions

- Did Maryland State Police attend? No.
- Seating of the Commissioners: pros and cons?
 - Good - face audience and eye contact important, podium to right of Commissioners was manageable.
 - Being high up (prior hearing) not viewed as good because not on same plane as attendees
- Time of hearing, duration and time management:
 - Should the Hearing length be extended? Ideally, keep the same, but be practical that most hearings have run closer to 4 hours rather than 3. May vary given the number of victims. Additional information shared below.
 - Use time cards (ie 2 min left) to help track time.

What Went Well

- Good to have time for community members to speak.
- Allowed for emotions to be felt and opportunities to share—highlighting that which we need to be sensitive to.
- Location was spacious and fitting for amount of people, well equipped (ie screen)
- Location historic to community
- Virtual experience:
 - Filming worked out very well
 - Speakers need to be aware of microphone (speak into mic)
- Commission Chair acknowledged those who were virtual

Areas of Improvement

- Virtual: Could it look more like a broadcast (subtitles, name of speaker)
- Q: Was the number of in-person commissioners viewed as satisfactory by the community?
- Staying on time—went over by 50 minutes, lost people after the break
 - Don't make it longer because may not get folks to attend
 - Concern about cutting off comments if need to end, better to err and go over
 - Increase communication of what each section will include and/or purpose (especially for those online)
 - Consider a shorter first half and extend the second half to give the public increased opportunity to speak

- 2nd Saturday hard because competing with other recurring events
- Communication with Commissioners in advance of Hearing regarding onboarding, expectations, information specific to hearing, etc.
- Commissioners should take responsibility to track emails and shared information.
- Management of inaccurate information and how to correct the narrative/record?
- Convey expectations of speakers to speaker/facilitators.
- Relationship building with descendents (what do they want? - speakers, etc)
- Acknowledge elected officials/thank for their engagement

Recommendations for Next Hearing

- Mental Health: better communication of where located (i.e. room location)
- Zoom in Commissioners to virtually “sit at the table”
- Discussion of timing to post Hearing link
- Send research materials one week in advance to Commissioners
- Dress rehearsal for local facilitators and establish expectations
- Schedule briefing prior to hearing
- Thank you notes (signed by Chair Fakunle) to:
 - descendants post hearing
 - local committee leaders
 - venue host

NonHearing Feedback

- Orientation for new Commissioners

Other

- A. Millin will work on county assignments and schedule

NEXT MTG: Monday, May 20, 2024 at 3pm