Chair
David O. Fakunle, Ph.D.

Vice Chair
Charles L. Chavis, Jr., Ph.D.

Staff
Sophie Asike, Esq.
Zenita Hurley, Esq.
Kristin McFarlane, Esq.

Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Commissioners
David Armenti
Lindsey Baker
Iris Leigh Barnes, Ph.D.
Simone Barrett-Williams, Ph.D.
Michelle Coles, Esq.
Nicholas Creary, Ph.D.
Maya Davis
Teisha Dupree-Wilson, Ph.D.
Holly Fisher-Hickman, Ph.D.
Christopher E. Haley
Elizabeth Hughes
Amy Millin
Robert Parker
Carl Snowden
Marshall Stevenson, Ph.D.
Stephanie Suerth, Ph.D.

Monthly Business Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, April 13th, 2026
Time: 11:30am-1:30pm Eastern Time
Location: Virtual

Attendance

Commissioners	
David O. Fakunle	X
Charles L. Chavis	
David Armenti	
Lindsey Baker	X
Iris Leigh Barnes	
Simone Barrett-Williams	
Michelle Coles	X
Nicholas Creary	X
Maya Davis	X
Teisha Dupree-Wilson	X
Holly Fisher-Hickman	
Christopher E. Haley	X
Elizabeth Hughes	X
Amy Millin	X
Robert Parker	X
Carl Snowden	
Marshall Stevenson	X
Stephanie Suerth	X
Sophie Asike	X
Zenita Hurley	
Kristin McFarlane	X

Call to Order

The meeting started at 11:34 am; a quorum was reached.

1. Call to Order, Attendance, and Approval of Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 11:34 AM EST.
- A quorum was confirmed.
- Minutes from the March meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Chair's Comments & Soul Check

- The Chair noted that only three business meetings remain (April, May, June).
- The Chair proposed that the final June meeting (June 8, 2026) be held in-person, reflecting on the Commission's seven-year journey and emphasizing closure and collective reflection.
- A desire was expressed to hold a celebratory gathering to honor the Commission's work.
    - Space was offered, and no additional reflections were shared at that time.

3. Committee Reports

- Acknowledgment was made that much committee work has concluded as major deliverables have been completed.

4. New Business

a. Legislative Advocacy Updates (2026 Session)

- The Chair provided an update on MLTRC-related legislative efforts:
    - The state apology resolution for racial terror lynchings did not advance beyond committee.
    - This outcome was characterized as procedural rather than a reflection of opposition to the content.
- Advocacy accomplishments included engagement with the Legislative Black Caucus, which was described as impactful and foundational for future efforts.
- Plans were outlined to reconnect with legislative champions after the session closed and to identify priorities for the 2027 General Assembly session.

b. Post-MLTRC Legislative Advocacy & Commission Sunset

- The Commission will sunset at the end of June 2026.
- Discussion focused on how advocacy should continue after the MLTRC formally ends.

- Strong consensus emerged around the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project (MLMP) serving as a central space to sustain advocacy.
- Commissioners discussed:
    - Preserving the history and work of the MLTRC
    - Avoiding loss of momentum after June 30
    - Ensuring capacity and infrastructure for continued action
- A proposal was raised to establish an MLTRC Veterans or Advocacy Working Group within MLMP to continue coordination with legislators and stakeholders.
- Emphasis was placed on collaboration, opt-in participation, and maintaining collective visibility.

c. Lynching Memorial in Annapolis

- An update was shared regarding a lynching memorial project in Annapolis, which is moving quickly.
- Local concerns were raised about the need for deeper community consultation, particularly with the Black community, regarding vision, process, and artist selection.
- MLMP clarified that:
    - It initiated the memorial effort.
    - It does not intend to rush the process.
    - Community engagement, flexibility, and partnership remain priorities.

d. MLTRC Representative on the Maryland Reparations Commission

- Commissioners were reminded that the law establishing the Maryland Reparations Commission requires an MLTRC representative.
- No timeline has been received from the Governor's Office.
- Commissioners were invited to:
    - Express interest in serving as the representative
    - Recommend others
- The Chair proposed forming a "brain trust" of commissioners to support the eventual representative.
- It was noted that:
    - A formal vote is expected at the May 11, 2026, meeting.
    - Bandwidth and consent of nominees will be confirmed before voting.
- A commissioner withdrew from consideration for the representative role but volunteered to serve as part of the brain trust.

5. Announcements

- Commissioner Davis was accepted into the AASLH History Leadership Institute.
- Commissioner Dupree-Wilson announced a promotion to Associate Professor of History.

6. Next Steps

- Next business meeting scheduled for **May 11, 2026**.
- The family of Keith Warren attended the meeting and will be given time at the May meeting to share their story for inclusion in the official MLTRC record.

6. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 PM EST.