

Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission

MEETING MINUTES #23

April 12, 2021

Attendance

David Armenti	x	Kirkland Hall	x
Iris Barnes	x	Elizabeth Hughes	x
Simone Barrett		Elgin Klugh	
DaNeen Brown		Gary Norman	
Jacqueline Bullock		Carl Snowden	x
Charles Chavis	x	Marshall Stevenson	x
Nick Creary	x		
Roger Davidson	x	Zenita Hurley	X
Maya Davis	x	Kristin McFarlane	X
Omar Eaton-Martinez	x	Will Schwarz	X
David Fakunle	x	Sonya Osei	X
Chris Haley	x		

X = Present

Members of the public present: Tim Baker, Kathy Brissette-Minus, Esq., Stan Brown Jr., Barbara Drazin, Carol Gosnell, Ailish Hopper, Virginie Ladisch, Edith Perry, Ashley Quarcoo, Emily Oland Squires, Ava Zakikhani

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dr. David Fakunle at 11.35a.m. Ms. Osei called the roll of Commissioners and Staff.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from meeting of March 8, 2021 were approved unanimously with no revisions.

Public Comments

The Chair asked if any members of the public wished to make a comment and there were no responses.

Sub-committee Reports

Logistics - Commissioner Maya Davis

- The Subcommittee focused on the discussion around the potential MD Liaison position for MD LTRC in addition to discussing legwork ahead of hearings.
- Hiring a Research Administrator would provide assistance with this research and communication for MD LTRC. This may be provided through BJA.
- (Discussion Tabled: See New Business for continued conversation)

Research - Commissioner David Armenti

- Last subcommittee meeting occurred last month. The subcommittee primarily discussed the transition for committee chairs. Commissioner Armenti will take over as Research Committee chair and Commissioner Klugh will assist and continue to provide assistance.
- If there are volunteers from the public or local coalitions, please forward their information for contact and follow up. The goal is to create a way to potentially collaborate with these persons and organizations. MD LTRC wants to ensure we have opportunities to allow those to assist and properly place them based on their expressed interest.
- Several local coalitions have done extensive research work on topics that MD LTRC is referencing. MD LTRC wants to keep communication open with these coalitions to share and expound upon the completed research.
- Please let Commissioner Armenti and Commissioner Klugh know if there are any specific tasks that need assistance. There may be volunteers or graduate assistants may be able to help with research.
- **Question:** Who do you contact to share information?
Answer: To share information or submit inquiry forms, please go to MD LTRC website and fill out contact or inquiry sheet and will be disseminated to the appropriate assistance.

Reconciliation – Commissioner Charles Chavis

- Last meeting occurred with the Wicomico County coalition meeting. The local leaders on the front lines supporting this effort discussed present day criminal justice issues to the various plans been implemented.
- Markers being placed on 5/22/2021 near courthouse lawn for Mathew Williams, Garfield King, and the unknown victim. This event will be televised on PBS news that weekend.
- The subcommittee plans on hosting another coalition meeting next week to help MD LTRC to see the needs of the coalition and how the commission can assist.
- Mr. Charles Phillips of the Department of Justice is working and developing strategies and workshops for communities who are rebuilding from racial injustices. When the meeting is scheduled and finalized, we will share with the Commission.

New Business

- MD Liaison- There is a possibility of BJA reallocating grant funds for a Coordinator position to provide communications assistance to MD LTRC when trying to build relationships with members of the public. This ideally will help organize information, including documents and local coalitions.
- Commissioner Davis and Mr. Schwarz are working to create a list of responsibilities to help identify the purposes and job description for this role in order to get approval from BJA.
- The Research coordinator will work with local coalitions to help develop a better understanding of the needs and requests of the organization. This position will be part-time with 20 hours weekly. (see document shared from Mr. Schwarz with job responsibilities)
- This position will report to Chair, Co-Chair, and Subcommittee chairs. This person is the liaison between MD LTRC and the local coalitions.
- **Question:** Is Project manager a better title for this job description over Research Coordinator? Is that a better title than research administrator. The name can be misleading. Job duties can include: Meeting Planning and Preparation; 2. Research support; 3. Coordination with Local Coalitions - or whatever is appropriate.
- **Press Release-** Chair Fakunle connected with Office of Attorney General regarding the dissemination of the joint statement with Maryland Commission African American History and Culture (MCAAHC). It was recommended to wait until the verdict is released from the Derek Chauvin trial, to bring more attention and heighten the media coverage.
- **Discussion:** Maybe the best time to release the joint statement is now - Commissioner Snowden. The MD General Assembly passed Police Reform legislation that will help aid with the creating additional media coverage if MD LTRC decides to move forward and release the joint statement.
- MD General Assembly is willing to share media contacts and provide assistance and advice to MD LTRC regarding media and communications practices. It is recommended for an entity associated with MD LTRC to be the vehicle for sending the actual press release.
- **Question:** Is Bowie State University a possible vehicle to release all statements and releases for MD LTRC?
- MD LTRC has a specific charge to address and identify reconciliations for those affected by racial injustices. We will continue to discuss and relate things to what is going on in present day. Must be able to rely on local coalitions.

Announcements

- To be involved or volunteer with the Commission, visit MDLTRC website and leave contact information through the inquiry form.
- For research aspects, reach out to Commissioner Armenti at darmenti@mdhistory.org, and cc mltrc@maryland.gov.
- The General Assembly passed House bill 307 extending the Commission to June 2024. Final report is due December 2023.
- Chair Fakunle, Ereshnee Naidu-Silverman, and Ashley Quarcoo, will have a discussion regarding Race and Reconciliation in a diverse society on April 21, 2021. See link for additional details 12-1 p.m. – <https://snfagora.jhu.edu/event/race-and-reconciliation-in-a-diverse-democracy/>
- Commissioner Armenti and Ms. Taylor Terry will be hosting virtual teaching workshop regarding lynchings in Maryland on April 24, 2021 12-1 p.m. This event will cater towards grades K-12 and discuss the challenges educators face when addressing the painful history of lynching and racially motivated violence with young learners. If you have any information you would like to be shared during this event, please send to Commissioner Armenti. <https://www.mdhistory.org/calendar/virtual-teacher-workshop-lynching-in-maryland/>
- AAAM2021 Virtual Conference in August --- <https://blackmuseums.org/aaam2021-announcement/>

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12: 35 p.m.