

Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission

MEETING MINUTES #21

February 8, 2021

11:30 a.m. (Virtual)

Commissioners and Staff present (Via telephone/Virtual): David Armenti; Iris Barnes; Simone Barrett; Charles Chavis; Nicholas Creary; Maya Davis; Omar Eaton-Martinez; Kirkland Hall; Elizabeth Hughes; Elgin Klugh; Gary Norman; Carl Snowden; Chris Haley; Zenita Hurley; Kristin McFarlane; Sonya Osei; Will Schwarz;

Absent: Jacqueline Bullock; DeNeen Brown; Roger Davidson; David Fakunle; Marshall Stevenson; Tamara Wilson

Members of the public present: Elaine Bachmann; Tim Baker; Stan Brown; Chanel Compton; Barbara Drazin; Karen Guevara; Shubha Jindel; John Kerner; Virginie Ladisch; Andrew Saundry; Emily Oland Squires; Bria Warren

Call to Order: Co-Chair Chavis called the meeting to order at approximately 11:36 A.M.; Ms. Osei called the role of Commissioners. Members of the public introduced themselves for the record.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes for the January 11, 2021 Commission meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with revisions.

Public Comments:

- Virgine Ladisch- Ms. Ladisch requested an update regarding the hearing schedule and how Covid-19 has affected this process. Ms. Ladisch is also interested in supporting and partnering with MD LTRC.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Logistics' Committee: Commissioner Maya Davis

- The most recent Logistics' Committee meeting was held January 20, 2021. Moving forward the Logistics' Committee will meet the third Wednesday of each month.
- The next meeting will be held February 17, 2021 at 11 a.m. virtually.
- The Logistics Committee is working to update current hearing schedule timeline based on guidelines and information provided from Emmett Till grant received from DOJ. Updates will be provided to the full commission for review as discussed.
- **Discussion:** Will there be a forum for modern day lynching? How does this affect the mission of the MD LTRC? Will this potentially cause overshadow?
- Mr. Schwarz is working on a document entitled MD LTRC Coalition Contact Log that will provide tracking with MD LTRC and coalition partnerships. This log will notate the

commissioner and coalition partnerships, including contact information, action items, progress made, etc. New contacts and partnerships will be added as they are received.

- The MD LTRRC coalition contact log would allow all commissioners and staff to have access.

Research Committee: Commissioner Klugh

- The most recent Research Committee meeting was held January 19, 2021.
- Moving forward it is proposed that the Research committee meet the third Monday of each month at 11 a.m.
- The Public History graduate students from UMBC under Dr. Denise Meringolo have submitted their research work. Commissioner Klugh will ensure these documents are submitted to the MSA website. The student research consists of an 180 page document, including an annotated bibliography. Included in this assignment is research of lynching's that occurred in Anne Arundel county. Commissioner Klugh held a meeting with the graduate students to allow each student an opportunity to speak on their research.
- **Discussion:** What is the MD LTRC approach to documenting case research and analysis? How do we want to report on each analysis? When we communicate with coalitions what is our approach? Do we have a document with insight?
- A document has been created to gather additional information regarding MD LTRC coalition partnerships. The subcommittee would like to use this document as a guide to lead discussions with coalitions to provide an idea of what MD LTRC looking for.
- This proposed template will include topics such as summary of lynching, biographical information, social content, etc. This can have discussions such as: What the legal process should been? Did any extra-legal activity occur?
- NAACP files can be included concerning these cases and research if identified and available.

Reconciliation and Justice Committee: Commissioner Chavis

- The next Reconciliation and Justice Committee meeting will be held on February 17, 2021 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. There will be a special guest.
- Monthly workshop and meetings will be discussed.
- Chanel Compton from the Banneker- Douglass Museum has provided an update that the Marketing team is awaiting approval to post joint statement between MCAAHC/MLTRC. The marketing team is waiting for approval before releasing press release as well.

New Business

- **DOJ Grant Updates-** MD LTRC is looking to bring additional support to the Commission. MD LTRC will be looking to hire a historian, additional researchers, genealogists, and other needed positions.
- There may be a Sub award provided to the Maryland State Archives to assist with conducting interviews and additional components.
- DOJ gave suggestion to bring in and engage prosecutors. MD LTRC does not have the ability to prosecute, but has the power to more specifically engage prosecutors and federal representatives. Prosecutors may be able to assist in a supervisory role to provide insight to court proceedings and legal aspects. The DOJ grant will not be able to cover all fees and position. The State of MD will provide more information regarding limitations, securities, etc. The subcommittee is developing recommendations for restorative justice and

reconciliation. MD LTRC should determine how the funds can be used and lead on the implementations.

Announcements Comments from the Public

- Commissioner Barrett is working with Dr. Isuk, chair of MSU IRB committee. As long as faculty or staff of Morgan State University is involved with the research, the MSU IRB committee will be able to provide assistance in some capacity.
- Commissioner Eaton-Martinez- Will share electronic brochure from Prince George's County Park and Recreation regarding black history month. See below <http://www.pgparks.com/1378/Black-History>
- Commissioner Davis will be making an announcement at Pratt Library on virtual platform.
- Commissioner Armenti (virtual panel discussion-) MD Center of History and Culture
- Karen Guevara, Equanimity Foundation, kig@eqfn.org. You can learn more about us at www.eqfn.org. Like Virginie from International Center for Transitional Justice, I would like to learn more about potential partnering opportunities.
- <https://www.mdhistory.org/events/> - Black History Month 2021 brochure is available

Adjourned: The MD LTRC meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.