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Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission



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Monthly Logistics-Research Committee Meeting Agenda

April 2022

Date: Monday, April 18th, 2022

Time: 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST

Meeting Registration Link:

Join with Google Meet

meet.google.com/grz-bbph-mxw

I. Welcome & Call to Order

II. Attendance

Commissioners: Dr. Izetta Autumn Mobley, Maya Davis, Chris Haley, David Armenti

Support Staff or Contractors: Brett Tyler and Donna Tyler Hollie (Heritage Associates), Emily Oland Squires (Maryland State Archives), Jack Del Nunzio (MD Lynching Oral History Initiative, Denise Baugh (Baltimore County Resident and Memorial Project volunteer)

III. Review and Approval of March 21, 2022 Meeting Recording in Lieu of Minutes

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Logistics – Commissioner Davis
No new updates from a logistics standpoint. Do we still want to engage Virginie Ladisch and International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)? There will be more to report after next meeting.

Baugh: Working on the final document with Baltimore County Coalition, June 4th is confirmed for 9 AM – 1 PM.

Haley: It (ICTJ training) would be useful but should not feel the need to “fit it in” before the first hearings. Would vote to go without if asked.

Mobley: If not required to be in person then would agree with Commissioner Haley.

Oland-Squires: Please provide updates about confirmed hearings ASAP for posting on website, MSA email distribution. Reiterate (with Maya) need to use the mltrc@maryland.gov if providing information by email to cut down on extra communication.

Tyler: Update on late June, Anne Arundel Coalition meeting?

Haley: Communication is ongoing within the coalition, including efforts to secure a venue across from the Annapolis marker.

b. Research – Commissioner Armenti

Armenti: Primary updates within research involve the ongoing coordination between commission/Heritage Associates and local county coalitions. The purpose of this process is to confirm research needs and cross-reference efforts, particularly in preparation for future hearings. Recent meetings have taken place with representatives from Baltimore County, St. Mary's, Prince George's, Montgomery, and Harford counties. Brett Tyler from Heritage Associates will provide an update on status of descendant identification, and other research.

Tyler (Heritage Associates): (Shared powerpoint slides), outline of outreach strategy to potential direct or collateral descendants of lynching victims. This has primarily been done by email, phone calls, and letters. Reported not being happy with the level of response thus far. It is possible that a lack of familiarity with Heritage Associates as a company might limit willingness.

Haley: What has been the tenor of the response, if any at all? Agreed that lack of familiarity may be a factor.

Mobley: Proposed that there is a need for a statewide communication plan to sufficiently support these outreach efforts. Communication should come from the MLTRC in order to show the state government backing. There are concerns, especially within the African American community, about phishing or other exploitative scams when the contact person/organization is unknown.

Del Nunzio: It is important that communication is noted as coming from the commission, and that community members are more generally receptive to outreach when commission support/specific goals are outlined.

All: Agreed that we should develop a proposal that will outline the strategies, and resources/funds needed to accomplish.

Davis/Armenti: A written proposal can be provided to the MLTRC Executive Leadership team. Those meetings take place weekly, and include commission representatives from the Office of the Attorney General. Clarified that budgetary funds to support the commission come primarily from the federal DOJ Emmitt Till grant. There may be flexibility within those funds to allocate toward marketing, but that must be approved by the commission chairs and OAG.

Haley: Asking Jack Del Nunzio, within Oral history initiative, are you paying participants?

Del Nunzio: Clarifying that he works for Dr. Chavis at GMU, and under the umbrella of the commission and memorial project. Work has largely been done by volunteers and student fellows.

V. New Business & Public Comment

a. Commission Methodology and Sources Language for Website

Armenti: We do not have time to address in this meeting, and will circle back to review language then share with full commission for consideration.

VI. Announcements

There will be an event in Kent County on May 14th, which is the EJI-sponsored soil collection. MLTRC has been invited to have a presence and/or speaking role, which was accepted and communicated by Dr. David Fakunle. <https://chestertownspy.org/2022/03/08/sumner-hall-announces-program-for-justice-day-2022/>

VII. Adjournment

Adjourned at 2:15 PM.