

# Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission

## MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, November 16, 2019

2:00 pm

(ATTENDANCE NEEDS TO BE UPDATED TO REFLECT 11/16 Commission Meeting)

**Commissioners and Staff present:** Chair David Fakunle; Simone Barrett; Elgin Klugh; Tamara E. Wilson; Tim Baker; Carl Snowden; Marshall Stevenson, Jr.; David Armenti; Iris Barnes; Will Schwarz; David Terry; Steve McKenna; Sonya Osei; Elizabeth Hughes; Zenita Hurley; Maya Davis

**Participating via telephone:** Gary Norman, Nicholas Creary

**Absent:** Jackie Copeland

**Members of the public present:** Charles L. Chavis, Jr.; Kirkland J. Hall. Sr.; Steve McKenna; David Taft Terry

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Call to Order: Acting Chair Fakunle called the meeting to order at approximately 2:21 p.m. Commissioners and members of the public introduced themselves for the record.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The minutes for the October 28th, 2019 Commission meeting were considered and approved with discussion.

The Commissioners determined attendance requirements as follows:

- Public Commissioners must be at all meetings/hearings within reason.
- Commissioners representing those agencies and institutions set forth as members in the statute may send delegates to represent them at meetings.

### **Review of Bylaws**

The bylaws presented by the drafting committee were adopted as presented.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

### **Logistics Subcommittee**

- Will provided Commissioners with detailed information regarding the locations and research conducted. Research has begun and includes documentation of lynching addresses/locations.
- The subcommittee recommended that the Commission hold 10 hearings around the State in specific regions (rather than in each of the 18 counties in which there is a record of lynchings).
- Outstanding questions/issues: time for each meeting and case presentation; need for transcription of hearings: confirmation of timeline (1865-1933)

### **Research Subcommittee**

- The Research subcommittee has been focused on the following: geography, timeline, rationale for event, people involved, political implications, media coverage, public reaction, inventory of primary and secondary sources, subpoena for court documents, death certificates, photographs, identification of descendants, perpetrators, and witnesses.
- Outstanding questions: What resources are available to investigate state, county, local executives? Grand jury and other state and local records could be very helpful.
- NAB Center at Salisbury University also has information that could be beneficial to Commission, but may require searching through archives.

### **Reconciliation Subcommittee**

- This subcommittee has not met yet but will schedule and post the next meeting date and provide updates to Commission.

### **LTRC CONFERENCE DEBRIEFING 11/16/19 (Will Schwartz)**

- More than 200 people gathered in the Student Center at Morgan State University 11/16/19 to attend the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project conference, "Lynching in Maryland: The Journey from Truth to Reconciliation". It was the second edition of the meeting exploring the state's history of racially motivated lynching and its continuing, contemporary repercussions.
- The event was hosted by the Robert M. Bell Center for Civil Rights in Education and cosponsored by the Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum.
- The program included a preview of a new film, "Outrage in Rockland: The Lynching of Howard Cooper" which focuses on the 1885 lynching of a 15 year-old boy at the old Baltimore County jail in Towson, just 5 miles from the conference site.

- Compelling presentation on the nature of restorative justice by Dr. Ereshnee Naidu-Silverman of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience followed by a discussion and demonstration of the effectiveness of restorative practices in city schools by Karen Webber of OSI-Baltimore.
- Howard University's Dr. Julian Harrell spoke on the observable psychological markers of historic racism and a panel on structural racism in education included talks by Pace McConkie of the Robert M. Bell Center for Civil Rights in Education and Victor Goode of the NAACP. Dr. David Fakunle, Acting Chair of the MD LTRC, gave update on the work of the Commission to date.

**Link to livestream from 11/16/19 Conference:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=rzyLbmyU96k>

**New Business**

The next and final Commission meeting for 2019 will be:

Date:

Monday, December 9, 2019

Time:

11:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Location:**

**Maryland State Archives**

2255 Rolling Run Drive

Windsor Mill, MD 21244

Meeting Adjourned: 3:42pm