

Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Monday,

July 13, 2020

11:30 a.m. (Virtual)

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

Absent: David Armenti; DeNeen Brown;

Members of the public present: Kristine Lockwood

Call to Order: Chair Fakunle called the meeting to order at approximately 11: 35 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 June 8, 2020 Commission meeting were considered and approved with discussion and revisions.

Public Comments: n/a

- Kristine Lockwood appreciates work done on behalf of Commission. Wanted to address and discuss if the closed meeting could be open. This would be beneficial for the public to know the scope of work and limitations of the Commission.

Committee Reports:

Logistics' Committee: Commissioner T. Baker

- The Committee discussed the development of the Resource Uploader at its last meeting. This platform will help to ensure the Commission can properly catalogue and make archives and research available to the public. Ms. Davis and the Maryland State Archives IT Team are working diligently.

- Resource Uploader is now available online at MD LTRC website under “Request to Send an Item”
- The Resource Uploader provides step by step information on how to submit documents and what types of documents can be submitted.
- For information that is not contained in documents, the individual can provide their contact information and the Commission will contact them to determine another means of collecting the documents.
- There will be an excel sheet for the public to view documents that are submitted to limit the upload of duplicate documents.
- Once forms are submitted, submitter will receive statement granting the Commission permission to use the documents for research and Commission work.
- Not all documents will be posted to the website, depending on the sensitive nature of the content. The public will still be able to access these documents, but will not include direct links.

Research Committee: Commissioner Klugh

- Last subcommittee meeting was held June 26, 2020 through WebEx.
- Presenters attended this meeting:
 - Dr. Denise Meringolo, Director of Public History at UMBC, would like to assist the commission in research. She will allow her graduate students to assist with our commission research efforts, hoping their focus will cover the Baltimore County area.
 - Dr. Matthew McKnight, Dept. of Planning MD Historical Trust- Their office specializes in a radar technology, which can be used in cases where lynching victims are buried. This resource can survey and provide indication if there is a burial site where a lynching occurred. The technology cannot identify the person, but there can provide confirmation of burial in an area. This can be utilized without associated fees., (not including travel)

Reconciliation and Justice Committee: Commissioner Chavis

- Oral history process has begun. Reconciliation & Justice subcommittee will be working with Research subcommittee to schedule dates for traditional interviews.
- Letters went out to five individuals today (7/13/2020) to begin interview process.
- Interviews will be scheduled for every Friday between 2-4pm starting this Friday, July 17, 2020.
- Based on research being conducted, the subcommittees are looking to identify individuals directly linked to cases to interview, i.e. family/descendants. The subcommittees are also looking to interview local activists and historians with information regarding any cases or historical instances.
- UBMC has agreed to continue to assist and partner with oral histories into academic year.
- **Who is participating in interview and who will be assisting?** No more than two members of the Commission. A representative from the Reconciliation & Justice subcommittee, and a representative from the Research committee to conduct interviews.

Commissioner Chavis will participate to ensure recordings and transcriptions are recorded properly. If someone else is interested in conducting interviews, touch base with Commissioner Chavis for additional options.

- **Oral history Training – who is certified? Will there be training?** Commissioner Chavis, Commissioner Barnes, and Commissioner Barrett are oral history certified.
- For individuals that have information about historical events in Maryland, please forward their contact information to Ms. Davis and Commissioner Chavis. Interviewees do not need to know about specific cases, but the historical instances that occurred during that timeframe.
- **Where will tapes and transcriptions be deposited?** Everything will go to MD State Archives for vetting and will become available for review to the website. Document will be filed on document standard.

New Business

- **Volunteer Process-** Many inquiries have been received in reference to volunteering with MD LTRC efforts. What process will work for this?
- An individual with research experience contacted the Commission about providing assistance. Where does this person best serve? How we determine that? Do we create a new space for volunteers? CCBC students in Baltimore County are interested in volunteering. How do we organize that?
- Subcommittee chairs will identify their committee needs; the commission will review and identify how to provide a volunteer system. Chair Fakunle requests a 3-6-month timeline for subcommittees to identify needs and help the Commission delegate work and allocate volunteers.

Chris Haley Panel Discussion

- Panel Discussion idea for MD LTRC to utilize voice and provide information to the public using Zoom, WebEx, etc. This will help explain our mission/purpose and share thoughts about topics that are relevant.
- **Suggestion:** Moderator-Commissioner Snowden; Chair Fakunle could speak about the Commission's mission and purpose. Each subcommittee would speak regarding how the Commission plans to execute tasks in relation their subcommittee in relation to past and current events.
- **Suggestion:** Commissioner D. Brown can speak from the perspective of a journalist. How does media present lynchings and other current events? There can be a discussion regarding how victims can often times be viewed as villains and other forms that do not always identify them as people when police brutality crimes occur.
- **Suggestion:** Commissioner Creary can speak regarding the research he was conducting regarding students while working at Bowie State University in MD.
- An email will be redistributed included document from Mr. Haley to MD LTRC for thoughts and review.
- Memorial Lynching Project is willing to host this event.
- HBCUs could assist in being a host either virtually or in person in the future to discuss a great idea. Elevating the prestige of HBCUs in MD.

- **Tentative date: September 16, 2020 Wednesday evening 6-8pm.** Gives two months to planning. Tentatively to be virtual.

Announcements

- Two people who need recognition- Commissioner T. Baker would like to have them more formally involved with commission- Maya Davis and Chris Haley. They have stepped up and assisted tremendously with the work of the Commission.
- Commissioner Baker: Will send an email to Chair and Vice Chair to appoint Ms. Davis as official representative of MD State Archives for the MD LTTC.
- Request to Delegate Pena-Melnyk: 1. Extend deadline of our work 2. Ask that the MD State Archives be formally named as support and resource Staff along with Bowie State University 3. Provision to add Director and Legacy of slavery at MD State Archives to the Commission.
- Commissioner T. Baker will continue to assist the commission in a supportive role, but would like Ms. Davis and Mr. Haley to become commissioners and take on leadership roles on behalf of the Archives with respect to the work being done with MD LTTC.
- **October 17, 2020-** Memorial Lynching Convention MD Hall in Annapolis or virtually
- Kent County Lynching Truth Coalition had proposal soil collection approved by EGI.
- Installation of Howard Cooper statue in Baltimore-135-year Anniversary of lynching will occur soon.
- Interim report is due September 17, 2020. Report will be submitted. Begin gathering accomplishments and work completed thus far.
- **Chair Fakunle-** The closed session will consist entirely of legal advice so it will remain closed.
 - Chair's Closing Statement: Pursuant to Maryland General Provisions Article section 3-305(b)(7), the Commission will go into closed session to receive legal advice from counsel regarding compliance with state and federal laws related to ethics, open government, and equal employment opportunity.

Comments from the Public

n/a

Motion to go into closed session. Moved.

Second Adjourned: 12:42 p.m.