

Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 11, 2021

11:30 a.m. (Virtual)

Commissioners and Staff present (Via telephone/Virtual): David Armenti; Iris Barnes; Simone Barrett; Roger Davidson; Maya Davis; Omar Eaton-Martinez; David Fakunle; Kirkland Hall; Elizabeth Hughes; Elgin Klugh; Gary Norman; Marshall Stevenson; Chris Haley; Zenita Hurley; Kristin McFarlane; Sonya Osei; Will Schwarz;

Absent: Jacqueline Bullock; DeNeen Brown; Charles Chavis; Nicholas Creary; Carl Snowden; Tamara Wilson;

Members of the public present: Tim Baker, Emily Oland Squires, Stan Brown, Ailish Hopper, Judy Allen-Leventhal, Elaine Bachmann, Virginie Ladisch, Elinor Thompson, Taka Ono, Jeff Rowe

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 December 14, 2020 Commission meeting were reviewed and approved with revisions.

Public Comments:

- Chair Fakunle discussed the racist riot and attack at the Capitol Building on January 6, 2021. He reiterates the purpose of the MD LTRC and the need of our work more than ever!
- Mr. Stan Brown- Will the commission work be extended?

Chair Fakunle: Yes, there is potential for a 2-3 year extension through Delegate Pena-Melnyk. There is a bill being proposed to Maryland General Assembly on January 21, 2021. 1:30 p.m. in Annapolis. Chair Fakunle will be there to testify to support the bill. Information about upcoming meeting will be shared with the Commission.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Logistics' Committee: Commissioner Maya Davis

- The most recent Logistics' Committee meeting was held December 16, 2020 at 2 p.m.
- During this meeting, the subcommittee discussed the MD LTRC Public hearing schedule and County liaison assignment sheet.
- Public hearings- The Public hearing sheet is being reviewed and updated. There will also be a coalition spreadsheet to provide a reminder to the Commission of who everyone is and have been partnered with.

- A brief hearing template has been created with overview of day including the flow of the hearing as well as discussion for restorative justice.
- Commissioner Norman is working on assisting with trainings for those who are interested in moderating a hearing. Will also look into rates for a moderator.
- County coalition- Commissioners Norman, Klugh, and Barnes have met with their assigned coalitions. Currently, there is no system in place to run the conversation and to provide next steps for partnerships. Commissioner Wilson and Davis will work on drafting document that can assist with how to lead and flow conversations with county coalitions.
- Suggestion: Commissioners send information to Commissioner Davis to share what meetings they have attended with county coalitions to keep record and pull together ideas from county coalition meeting attended to gain a better idea of the needs with the partnership.

Research Committee: Commissioner Klugh

- The most recent Research Committee meeting was held December 21, 2020.
- 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.
- Local coalitions in Maryland are involving students to assist with their research effort. Involving students in MD LTRC research can be very beneficial to our organizational efforts.
- There may be room for discussion on merging the Research and Reconciliation committee due to research overlap. There are options where research aspects can be completed together as one. Once DOJ grant is obtained, a lot of the reconciliation will be based upon a lot of the research work components.
- Commissioners Klugh and Davis spoke with the Montgomery County coalition liaison; the Montgomery County coalition is very proficient in research. Their coalition has conducted various types of research, but need assistance with genealogy. They need help finding descendants from some of the victims in these Maryland cases.
- Moving forward the Research committee will meet 3rd Monday of each month at 11 a.m., January they will meet on the 19th instead due to MLK holiday.

Reconciliation and Justice Committee: Commissioner Chavis

- No updates at this time

New Business

Joint statement is almost finished

- Commissioner Wilson is finishing Op-Ed for the statement.
- MCAAHC/MLTRC joint statement is complete. The final statement will be released in the next few days. Chair Fakunle will confirm with the Commission before making public.
- Both commissions would still like to do a live statement. This will be contingent upon COVID restrictions. The goal is to have representation from both commissions in order to have each perspective.
- Decision: MCAAHC/MLTRC will move forward with statement currently generated. MD LTRC will release a second statement to discuss the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capital Building.

Announcements Comments from the Public

- **Commissioner Norman-** FDCR issued strong statement regarding the events that occurred last month.
- **Commissioner Barnes-** Has link to a website of additional race riots that took place in American History. This information will be shared with the Commission.

Adjourned to closed session: 12:20 p.m.

Summary of Closed Session Held on January 11, 2021

1. Statement of the time, place, and purpose of the closed session:
 - a. Time: 12:45 p.m.
 - b. Place (location): Virtually via Zoom link
 - c. Purpose: Pursuant to the General Provisions Article, Sections 3-305(b)(7), the Commission will meet in closed session in order to receive advice from legal counsel regarding compliance with the Maryland Public Information Act.
2. Record of the vote of each member as to closing the session:
 - a. Names of members voting aye: David Fakunle, Maya Davis, Elgin Klugh, Simone Barrett, David Armenti, Iris Barnes; Roger Davidson, Kirkland Hall, Carl Snowden, Gary Norman, Nicholas Creary, Marshall Stevenson, Kristin McFarlane; Zenita Hurley; Sonya Osei; Will Schwarz;
 - b. Members opposed: N/A
 - c. Members abstaining: N/A
3. Statutory Authority to close session – This meeting was closed under the following provisions of General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b):
 - a. § 3-305(b)(7), legal advice
4. Listing of each topic actually discussed, persons present, and each action taken in the session:
 - a. Legal counsel regarding compliance with the Maryland Public Information Act with respect to inspection of personal information pertaining to witnesses.
 - b. Persons present: David Fakunle, Maya Davis, Elgin Klugh, Simone Barrett, David Armenti, Iris Barnes; Roger Davidson, Kirkland Hall, Carl Snowden, Gary Norman, Nicholas Creary, Marshall Stevenson, Kristin McFarlane; Zenita Hurley; Sonya Osei; Will Schwarz;