

Research Committee Meeting
Maryland Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission

Date: Monday, March 15th, 2021

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30pm

Location: **Virtual meeting (Google Meet)**

Present: Emily Oland Squires, David Armenti, Marshall Stevenson, Elgin Klugh, Christopher Haley, Iris Barnes

Guest: Lawrence Roberts

Called to order: 11:35 am

Welcome / Review of February meeting minutes

Armenti – Noted that there was not a quorum at the last meeting. Need to confirm what constitutes a quorum.

Haley – Quorum is generally 50% + 1.

Klugh – Quorum for Research Committee should be at least 4 commissioners

Armenti – Noted new position as Research Committee Chair. Thanked E. Klugh for time of service as research committee chair

Klugh – moved to accept February minutes

Haley – seconded

Grant

Armenti – The commission will move forward with purchasing oral history software. Part of the purpose of public hearings is to make them a part of the public work of the commission. As we are coordinating with our contacts, we can let them know that we will have the apparatus to record interviews – within and outside of the hearings.

-The actual roles and tasks of the professionals to be hired through the grant need to be detailed. Dr. Chavis is leading much of the effort to detail the position descriptions. May be helpful for us, as a research committee, to consider specific ideas for specific roles for these positions.

Local Coalition Communication & Volunteer Assistance

Armenti – Asked if RC commissioners are clear about the coalitions that they are assigned to?

Stevenson – On the Somerset County group – also with Kirkland and Charles.

Klugh – Montgomery County and Howard County. In touch with Montgomery County and need to connect with Howard County coalition

Barnes – Harford County. Going to reconnect with Cecil County. Noted that the Elkton School may have received funding from MCAAHC. There might be some individuals there willing to form their own Cecil County coalition. Mike Dixon (history professor associated with the Cecil County Historical Society) has been doing some of this research and found a lynching that had not been documented. The issue with Cecil County and Harford County lynching, they are early (1860s) so there is not as much documentation.

Armenti – If the Cecil County case has been corroborated then we should have that incorporated into our information (website). To the extent that Cecil Harford counties will want to share their work – that is something that can be included or linked on the resources page of the MDLTRC website, we can do that with proper attribution.

Barnes - Blogs on the MLMP website provide some of the information as well. Will see if reports are ready to be released. Noted that Baltimore County has been active and that they are planning a memorial. There will also be an event in Wicomico County

Armenti – MLMP event for Howard Cooper (Baltimore County) pushed to May. Originally set for April 17 but need to confirm date

Dr. Creary is a partner with Armenti in work on Frederick. Not sure who is working with the far western MD counties. Will verify who has been assigned to the western counties. If no one, we can consult with MLMP concerning work being done and contacts in those counties.

Armenti – Goal of commission is to begin hearings in the fall.

HBCU Presidents

Klugh – was cc'd on message sent to the CSU president. The CSU president is new and may not be aware of the work of the commission

Stevenson – Has been coordinating with the UMES President's Chief of Staff - they plan to reach out to the other 3 MD HBCU presidents to coordinate a meeting with the commission.

The MDLTRC Submission Portal & Email Requests for Research Material

Armenti – Important to let groups know that we want to highlight and assist their work, not “claim” it. If they are willing to officially share work, we will try to go through the official commission website. Where it is appropriate, we should cc the official commission email so that work can be centralized and be documented.

Announcement

Armenti – Will lead an MCHC panel on April 8th with Will Schwartz, David Fakunle, and Maya Davis

Additionally, there will be a teacher workshop on April 24th with the Lewis Museum (Armenti and Terry Taylor from the Lewis museum). Links shared in the chat:

<https://www.mdhistory.org/calendar/finding-truth-healing-and-reconciliation-the-history-of-lynchings-in-maryland/>

<https://www.mdhistory.org/calendar/virtual-teacher-workshop-lynching-in-maryland/>

Adjournment: 12:30 pm