

**Research Committee Meeting**  
**Maryland Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission**

Date: Friday, February 14th, 2020

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:30pm

Location: **State Archives**  
350 Rowe Boulevard  
Annapolis MD 21401

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

Elgin Klugh (Commissioner, Coppin State University)  
David Armenti (Commissioner, Maryland Historical Society)  
Steve McKenna (Independent Scholar)  
Maya Davis (State Archives)  
Chris Haley (State Archives)  
Corey Henderson (Independent Scholar) – by phone  
Marshall Stevenson (Commissioner, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore) – by phone  
Charles Chavis (Commissioner, George Mason University) – by phone  
Linda Duyer (Independent Scholar) – by phone  
Marlena Jareaux (Howard County Coalition)

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**1. Review of 01/17/2020 Research Committee Minutes**

- Minutes accepted with minor edits. Will be posted on the Commission website.

**2. Coordinating with the State Archives**

Haley discussed State Archives Judge Lynches Court site. Noted that the work would need to be reviewed and updated (research for the site done before 2005). Also noted was a Dr. Linwood G. Kroger paper on lynching up until about 1933 – at the Banneker Douglass Museum. Davis and Haley will see if we can have permission to make it available online

Klugh noted the need to reach out to David T. Terry as he evidently set up a rubric of questions for the Judge Lynches Court site.

Chavis's forthcoming research assistants could help review materials  
McKenna noted that search capabilities are much better now than in 2005

Other sources desired:

-Access to the original documents of the Maryland Interracial Commission – established by Gov. Ritchie in 1924. This commission investigated incidents of violence. Pres. of Morgan State was on the commission – the commission was half black and half white

-King Johnson case –governor hired William Burns of the Burns detective agency. Want to access governor records from the time that lynching took place

Davis – State Archives needs to do a survey of what is already digitized; Interracial commission may have become the Civil Rights Commission

- Other potential sources of information:

(1) U of MD Archives

(2) Nabb Center at Salisbury University

(3) States Attorney’s offices (they do not always turnover materials to the state archives) – request may need drafted by our attorney

(4) Basement at the Court of Appeals building - records

### **Decisions:**

1) Review and update information on Judge Lynches Course site

2) See what further information is available – specifically the Kroger paper

### **3) Google Drive**

Duyer – asked who makes decision about what get channeled to the full commission and google drive access. Suggested that Google drive access should be strictly limited to Commissioners and Commission Staff

\*All agreed that Google drive access will be limited to Commissioners and Commission Staff

Chavis – Research assistants from GMU – will be working for the commission – materials gathered, and work compiled to go to the commission

### **Decisions:**

1) Google drive access will be restricted to Commissioners and Commission Staff

### **4) Timeline for the work of the committee**

- Discussed activities that need to occur prior to the first hearing (post Labor Bay?) -

Introductory letters, various aspects of research (visiting, collecting information, genealogy, oral history, ...)

McKenna – in advance of a public hearing in a given region we should vet and update the basic biographic information already on the State Archives site. One data point that is not necessarily extracted cleanly on the State Archives site – from the secondary sources – is list of names of potential people involved in each lynching. Can find all kinds of people who were involved in the case. People who commented in the press who are named – state officials, coroners, jailers, member of both committees of inquest as well as grand juries.

Can come up with some pretty extensive lists of names that can then be genealogically researched for surviving descendant to be invited to attend the hearings – and perhaps speak at the hearings

Davis pointed out that the main focal point for Legacy of Slavery project was the victims. To be practical, there had to be some parameters for the sake of the timeliness of the project

- In order to prioritize individuals to investigate – suggested that we use the strategy in the Blood Justice book - concentric circle theory – how to organize those involved in conspiracies / lynching (5 different categories)

Duyer suggested that close to the public meeting, once research is compiled, it will be important to present research - to say, “This is what we have, what else do you know about?” This should perhaps constitute a part of the meeting (the presentation of what has been collected)

Chavis emphasized the need to have a seamless narrative on the cases in that region where the hearing takes place - part of our work is to bring the truth portion to light as best we can.

Duyer - one effective visual presentation strategy is the “Undesign the Redline” exhibit - offers the ability for people to come in to contribute information

- Some coalitions may be interested in designing such an exhibit for display in local libraries

Chavis – stated that we should suggest the order of regional hearing to the Logistics Committee, and that we should start with a focus on Western Maryland (less cases) for first hearing

Duyer – suggested that local people should direct the meetings (public hearings)

### **Decisions:**

- 1) Urge the Logistic Committee to make Western Maryland the site of the first public hearing
- 2) Commissioners will be primarily responsible for specific regions:

#### **Central Maryland Region**

- Iris Barnes

#### **Eastern Shore Region**

- Charles L. Chavis, Jr.
- Marshall Stevenson, Ph.D.

#### **Southern Maryland**

- Simone Barrett
- Roger Davidson

**Western Maryland**

- Elgin Klugh
- David Armenti

(Although not a commissioner, Steve McKenna has been actively involved and is also working on Central Maryland)

Armenti – suggested that Commissioner Deneen Brown may want to be on the committee and could even-out the regional commissioner assignments

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Adjournment: approximately 3:00pm