

Observer: Carol Mullins

Meeting began at 9:10 AM with quorum when Devon Reed arrived, Burns arrived 9:20.

Members present: Robin Simmons, chair; Claire, Carlis Sutton, Devon Reed, Bobby Burns.

Others present: Tasheik Kerr, staff; legal: Nick Cummings, Economic development: Paul Z.

Minutes were approved.

Introduction of Research on Evanston Reparations. Robin, excellent chair, introduced Alvin Tilery, a NU political science professor, who will be conducting a survey during October and November throughout the community using field work students from NU and ETHS. The goal is to obtain 4000 respondents. The survey will ask random community participants their impressions of reparations program, not an evaluation of program. The Survey is sponsored by a grant from Sebring-Lewis Foundation. Many questions ensued from the Committee; Dr. Tilery said goal is to inform, but there will be surprises. He said survey will take about 12-15 minutes, will ask zip code, race and gender. Robin thanked Dr. Tilery, who has been of excellent service to City Council and the Committee since 2019. He is the founder of Center for Diversity and Democracy, established in 2016, doing anti racist work. Robin feels that Northwestern has a responsibility to participate in reparations.

Announcements: Robin thanked CM Reed for his work on Juneteenth, making it a city holiday; and CM Burns. She also reported that Alpha Phi Alpha is celebrating their 100th anniversary and would like to participate in a reparations service project in Evanston.

Update on Cannabis Licenses: There is only one dispensary, hoping for more to raise funds for reparations. Paul Z, Economic Development, explained they have reached out and received one California response. Reed remarked laws need to be changed, as an example, one could go buy cannabis, go to pay water bill at Civic Center and be arrested. (another scenario: could pay water bill first) Claire explained there were state and federal laws. Reed shook his head, no. (there is comment in Evanston Now today about big corporations winning most of licenses). Paul Z asked for help and Bobby Burns, who has a growing license on the south side, offered his help to economic development.

Deceased reparations recipients: Six ancestors have died. Nick Cummings suggested that ancestors name beneficiaries since most don't have wills. Claire added that we send a note of condolence to ancestors' family.

Administration: Staff recommends finding a provider interesting in managing and overseeing housing services. CIBA has been providing loans, the Committee goal is to find black owned businesses to provide this service.

Reparations Town Hall: preferred date is Saturday, October 22nd at Fleetwood.

Communications: Reed enthusiastically supports transferring funds for Reparations from general fund of City budget since there will be sufficient funds to do that. Cummings has said in

the past that this isn't a good idea legally. Reed suggests Committee vote on it and take to City Council. Robin will put on Reparation agenda at their next meeting.

Reparations Financial Donation Report: \$35,643 in city coffers with promise from Soul and Smoke to donate a portion of their profits. This has been placed on file. The Evanston Community Foundation also has a fund earmarking Reparations with nearly \$300,000. The ECF executive director was in attendance also.

Public Comment: There were four speakers:

Ndona: about cannabis licenses

Tina Paden: should be hybrid meetings, so that those unable to attend in person could participate; cash payments are the way to go; are you spending Reparations money for dinners and conferences? CIBA should not be included.

Vanessa McCoy: be clearer in letters to applicants.

Bennett Johnson: selling his investment plan, Freedom;; money not coming in because program not well known, Hycel Taylor did Reparations conference at Northwestern in 2000.

Ms. Greer: would appreciate funds, but owns nothing to restore.

Robin explained answers to concerns raised by speakers will be addressed later, but did explain that no reparations funds have been used for dinners, conferences, ONLY for reparations.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.