

Observer Report**Reparations****January 13, 2022****Observer:** Carol Mullins, LWVE**Participating Committee Members:** Carlis Sutton, Robin Rue Simmons, Bonnie Lockhart, Claire, Peter Braithewaite.**Meeting began:** 9:25 am

Tears, cheers, ping pong balls, high emotions were the rule of the day in the reparations meeting.

Peter Braithewaite opened the meeting late at 9:25am at Fleetwood Jourdain. Kimberley Richardson and Tasheik Kerr were there to announce the lottery winners. 16 ancestor residents will receive the initial reparations money, \$25,000 each, from the city, making Evanston the first city government in the country to do this. Eligible ancestor citizens needed to have lived in Evanston during the 50 year period from 1919 to 1969. Monies have come to the City from marijuana sales taxes. In addition, there have been donations to the reparations fund. There were many, many tributes to Robin Rue Simmons and others. Robin got the ball going for reparations which she served as the 5th ward alderman. She remains active at the national level and hosted a reparations conference here recently. She said this is the first tangible repair to the black community since reconstruction. Carlis talked about the constitution, saying this is a profound day, not perfect, but a start. Other committee members and zoom participants were full of enthusiasm and praise. Robin, Bonnie and Dino Robinson spun the lottery machine wheel and chose the first 16, then many more for the next round. Winning applicants will be called, others will receive emails, in all 123 applicants will be notified.

Kimberley is leaving the city's employ, Peter presented her with flowers, thanking her for her time here. She thanked everybody and said working on this for the last six months has been ground breaking for her. Tasheik Kerr received flowers as well.

At the end of the meeting during public comment, it was recommended that we use black owned organizations to be a part of the group of consultants as Robin and Carliss had suggested two weeks ago.

Peter commented that seeking transparency in this program remains a high priority and that many organizations will be needed to offer services to applicants.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08am.