

## Observer Report

## Reparations

April 7, 2022

**Meeting began:** 9:03 am

**Meeting adjourned:** 10 am

**In Attendance:** Braithewaite, Sutton, Simmons, Lockhart, Barber. Reid arrived 9:20 am, Burns absent.

Minutes approved.

Public comment was next:

Introduced were three representatives of lending sources:

Jonathan Wilson, Liberty Bank, New Orleans

An all African American owned bank with over 1 billion dollars in assets, He talked about the bank's mortgage experience with black communities and assisting after disasters in New Orleans and Detroit, their willingness to do business with our citizens. They also support black business.

Dave Vance, Devon Bank, Chicago

They have 29 languages spoken within their bank. They will provide mortgages at 1/4 percent interest discount. They work with Federal Home Loan association, so they can offer a down payment of up to \$6000. They provide Islamic financing, Islamic faith does not permit interest, so they have structured mortgages differently. They provide flexibility for clients.

Daniel Martinez, Self Help Credit Union

Two kinds of programs, The Equity program can provide 100 percent financing. These provide people a variety of options to pursue.

Ndona: asked about money if repairs were less than \$25,000.

There was an update on the 16 recipients of the \$25000. Audrey Thompson and Tasheik have visited these folks. 15 have decided if they want repair or mortgage assistance. One person, a renter, has made no decision and is put into a corner, so to speak about her options Because she didn't understand criteria. Audrey's experience as the ombudsman for seniors has been very helpful in helping the senior recipients take advantage of community services available, handyman and furniture assistance are but two. she feels visiting homes can help build communication. It is very important legally that the reparations committee stay

the mission and this particular committee cannot waiver. Applications were clear, applicants were not clear in some instances.

There was approval to accept and place on file the orientation of the first 16 recipients.

The next item was the status of direct descendants reparations approved. Tasheik presented. There are 146, ..though 11 had no connection to Evanston. It was approved to put this report on file.

Donations have totaled \$65,253.79. Approved to place on file.

Thank you and acknowledgement of the 16 reparations beneficiaries. There is a dinner being planned as celebration.

Updated repair update:

There was much discussion, first stated by Claire, by Bonnie and Carlis that this committee can not change their mission, legal problem if that happened. Braithwaite and Simmons concurred. Many applicants didn't understand this is housing reparations initially in the infancy stage. Devon wants to improve program, look for innovative ways to fund raise more funds, including a tax imposed on the 47 landowners of lake front properties because black folks were forced out, according to him.

Simmons reported that there is much going on at the local and national level, not so much at the state level. Reparations died in committee at state level. There is a black stakeholder's committee at ECF, with a fund of \$233,000. There is local clergy committee to propose additional recommendations. At the national level, HR40 has been voted out of committee, our senators, Durban and Duckworth and representative, Jan Shakowsky are sponsors of this bill. Senator Cory Booker is trying as well.

Robin Simmons, Dino Robinson, Claire Barker, Peter Braithwaite attended a Reparations Symposium this past weekend In Washington at Howard university, partnering with Columbia University that everyone raved about, looking at full scope of repair. Dino stated first day about 80 people attended, second day about 20, Intellectual firepower said Claire. They learned so much, realizing that Evanston was a part. There will be another Reparations symposium here in November or December.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 AM.