



CITY EXPERIENCE
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

Beyond Apology Commission

Special Meeting | November 22, 2024 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: TheRese Anderson Aduni, Phil Armstrong, Jacqueline Evans, Vanessa Hall-Harper, Mattece Mason, Keith Mayes, D'Marria Monday, Tim Newton, Greg Taylor, Taylor West, Kristi Williams, Damali Wilson

Commissioners Listening via Call: Corinice Wilson

City of Tulsa Staff Present: Lexi Bollis, Jack Blair, Krya Carby, Ana Ibarra, Krystal Reyes, James Wagner

- I. Call to Order**
 - a. Chairwoman Williams called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm.
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to approve the November 15 and 16 meeting minutes.
 - i. Councilor Hall Harper made a motion, Commissioner Monday seconded.
 1. Aye: 10
 2. Commissioner Monday and Commissioner Newton had not arrived to the meeting yet.
 - ii. Motion carried, November 15 and 16 meeting minutes approved.
- III. Discussion on Housing Reparations Program Recommendations**
 - a. Chairwoman Williams turned facilitation over to Greg Robinson, who presented via Microsoft Teams.
 - b. Commissioner Mason invited the Commission to pause in honor of Coach Reed. Commissioners reflected on the impact of his life on the community.
 - c. The Commission read the drafted Memorandum and Program Outline.
 - i. Vice Chair Wilson submitted notes via email to Chairwoman Williams and Lexi.
 - ii. Commissioner Armstrong shared that he made notes in the document, followed up by sending those notes to Chairwoman Williams, Greg, and Lexi.
 - d. The Commission discussed the drafted Memorandum and Program Outline. They begin with general impressions and questions, then went section by section.
 - i. Commissioner Taylor suggested establishing how long an organization needs to exist before they participate. New people signing up in order to



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get funding that haven't previously been involved in north Tulsa could be a concern.

1. Commissioner Mason: Agree with Commissioner Taylor folks may try to jump on bandwagon to access funding that are not truly invested. Suggested giving preference to BIPOC and women-owned contractors and contractors that have been in north Tulsa doing the work for a specified period of time.
2. Commissioner Aduni: Are there certain criteria the City has for contractors? Will north Tulsa-based contractors meet the criteria, or will they need training and licensing?
 - a. Councilor: City can't prioritize contractors based on race, per state law. Need to focus on collaboration with a community entity to make that happen.
- ii. Commissioner Taylor: In Section 8, is \$10k of pre-construction cost too much?
- iii. Greg noted that the plan is very similar to Evanston's.
 1. Purposefully doesn't go into economic development strategies and focuses on housing.
- iv. Section 2 – Definitions: Greg Called out a difference between Direct Descendant and Descendant with Common Ancestry. Commission discussed possibly conflating the two and having just one category, "Descendants" encompass both direct and indirect.
- v. Greg called out eligibility for those who currently live outside City of Tulsa but plan to move back to Tulsa. The City can only disperse funds to those who live in Tulsa; however, this incentive could make it possible for eligible folks to move back to the area.
 1. Commissioner Mason: Including this in the program provides great opportunity to revitalize north Tulsa.
- vi. Section 5 – Program Descriptions. Greg notes this is very similar to Evanston's plan, but we go further.
 1. Commissioner Aduni appreciates the inclusion of housing and neighborhood benefit section.
 2. Ensuring entities/organizations that are receiving funding have at least 50% governance by people who are also eligible for individual benefits.
 3. Establishing reserve fund is important for growing and seeing continued benefits down the line.
- vii. The Home Ownership Readiness Benefit addresses a concern Commissioner Mason had around education to support financial readiness.
 1. Commissioner Monday: Do we need \$2M for that? There are other entities to partner with.
 2. Greg: Money is for things you need to address after receiving the education, such as paying down debt. Can partner with other



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organizations to deliver education, but the funding is to disperse money to help folks accomplish their financial goals.

3. Commissioner Evans: This part of the program will help address systemic failures.
- viii. Commissioner Newton noted the disparity in Black and white contractors and developers doing work in north Tulsa.
 1. Greg shares Evanston's Reparations program page, they have a Reparations Program Contractor Sign Up. Doing something similar in Tulsa can help address this.
- ix. Commissioner Monday: What is the difference between a reserve fund and community land trust?
 1. Greg clarifies that a land trust is utilizing a plot of land, and the reserve fund is intended to protect this work in the future, focused of financial side and growing money that becomes available.
- e. Greg provides an overview of how he came to the recommended dollar amounts.
 - i. Greg notes that \$25M is not transformational, but it's a start. What is the ultimate goal? There is still study to be done to understand the complete and total impacts. This can not be the end
 - ii. Commissioner Taylor: On the initial funding allocation, should we keep the language broad or is it necessary to specify nonprofit? Should the door be open for banks or other companies who have a role to play in addressing harm?
 1. Greg shared his rationale, suggested the program can prioritize nonprofits and leave an opening to for-profit organizations as well.
 - iii. Commissioner Monday: Is there surplus in the City's budget, and can that be invested before the sales tax start coming in in 2026? Would like to find a way to begin implementing the program earlier than the Improve Our Tulsa funds will be available.
- f. Commissioner Taylor: Can we acquire surplus land that is available in north Tulsa? Call on City to return land. Reference Beyond Apology Report
- g. Commissioner Mason asked what are next steps now that the commission has a framework for the program.
 - i. Chairwoman Williams noted that the intent was to vote on this document today.
 - ii. Commissioner Evans: What is the City Attorney's role?
 1. Attorney Jack Blair clarifies that his role is to help the commission, not to tell you no, but to provide guidance. In current eligibility, see historical harm and geography called out, which are historical fact. Moments that call out race could be pulled out and made a centerpiece by someone who finds issue with the recommendations. Can make reference to findings & fact in other reports (2001 Tulsa Race Riot Report, Equality Indicators, BA Report) as justification. Acknowledge and adopt the findings in those reports within this memorandum.



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- iii. Councilor Hall-Harper: What does Mayor Bynum expect at this stage?
 - iv. Krystal: It will be important for the commission to say this is the initial report and the work is ongoing.
 - h. Greg proposes sending a revised draft for commissioners for further edits.
 - i. Attorney Blair advised that an email vote can be held to approve the revised materials before November 30th.
 - j. Chairwoman Williams made a motion to move forward with the existing materials as a framework and conduct revisions and further discussion via email.
 - i. Commissioner Mason seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 11
 - 2. Commissioner Armstrong left the meeting before the motion was made.
 - ii. Motion carried.
- IV. Vote on 2025 Meeting Schedule**
- a. Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the 2025 Meeting Schedule.
 - i. Commissioner Newton seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 11, Nay: 0
 - 2. Commissioner Armstrong left the meeting before the motion was made.
 - ii. Motion carried, 2025 Meeting Schedule approved.
- V. Old Business**
- a. Evanston National Reparations Symposium 2024
 - i. Councilor invited Mayor-Elect Nichols to the conference and he is considering attending.
 - ii. Commissioner West is interested in attending.
 - iii. Lexi passed around a sign-up sheet for commissioners to indicate what supports they need to book travel for the conference.
- VI. New Business**
- a. New commissioner Taylor West, filling the youth seat was recognized and introduced himself.
- VII. Adjournment**
- a. Chairwoman Williams reminded the commission this first memorandum and program recommendations are not the end all, be all, it's just a start
 - b. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Councilor Hall-Harper made a motion, Commissioner Monday seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 11
 - 2. Commissioner Armstrong left the meeting before the motion was made.
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 3:17 pm.