Reparations Subcommittee Meeting

Friday, January 10, 2020
12 p.m.
Lorraine Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Aldermanic Library

Minutes

Committee Present: Ald. Robin Rue Simmons; Ald. Ann Rainey; Ald. Peter Braithwaite

Others Present: Kimberly Richardson, Deputy City Manager; Shenicka Hohenkirk, ICMA Management Fellow; Michelle Masoncup, City Attorney; Gabriella Johansson, CMO Intern; 20 guests

1. Called to order/Declaration of Quorum:
Ald. Simmons called the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Ald. Simmons informed meeting participants that they were being filmed as part of a documentary on reparations at the national and local government levels. The documentary will likely be released in 2021 and a podcast related to the project possibly in 2020.

2. Approval of the meeting schedule for 2020
Ald. Simmons made a motion to adjourn, Ald. Rainey seconded. The Reparations Subcommittee 2020 meeting schedule was approved.

3. Discussion Items

a. Town Hall Debrief
Ms. Richardson provided a report to the Subcommittee on the Reparations Town hall meeting at First Church of Christ on December 11. From the standpoint of the City’s public safety departments, the event was a success with no reported incident. Ald. Simmons thanked City staff for the efforts and shared the
positive feedback she received from community members that were in attendance. Ald. Simmons is working to make a video of the town hall available online on the City website.

b. Expansion of Committee Members
The Committee discussed the need for expanding the committee to include additional appointed members. The recommendation was not to expand the number of appointed members and instead invite experts to the meeting to discuss specific areas of focus.

c. Defining Local Reparations for Evanston
The local reparation in Evanston is attached to the harm of redlining in the community. The committee members agreed on four focus areas for reparations funding to address: housing/redlining, local businesses, mental health, and financing as part of a partnership with local banks.

d. Community Outreach
The Committee will work with staff on developing a community engagement and outreach plan to hear from the community members along with educational efforts on reparations. The Committee recognized that they will not be able to lead all community efforts and wanted to establish a strategy that would allow for the maximum number of community members to participate. Staff will return to the next meeting with options for the committee to consider.

e. Next Steps
The committee plans to submit a report to the City Council this summer with expectations of approval and implementation later in the year into early 2021.

4. Schedule for Next Meeting:
The Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 24 at 12:00 p.m. The meeting location will be moved to a larger room to accommodate meeting attendees.

5. Adjournment
Ald. Simmons made a motion to adjourn, Ald. Braithwaite seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.