Reparations Subcommittee Meeting
Friday, June 12, 2020
12:00 P.M
Electronic Meeting
Minutes

Called to order/Declaration of Quorum:
The meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Alderman Ann Rainey. Committee members Aldermen Robin Rue Simmons and Peter Braithwaite were present. Staff members Kimberly Richardson, and Tasheik Kerr were also present.

Approval of Minutes
It was moved by Alderman Rainey, seconded by Alderman Braithwaite, to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2020 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment
Public Comment was moved to the beginning of the meeting.

Ndona Muboyayi, of Our Village the Black Evanstonians, provided the group’s feedback about the reparations focus areas.

Kirsten D’Aurelio inquired about how White allies can help the reparations initiative.

Nina Kavin inquired about the use of reparations to fund social service providers.

Tina Paden inquired about when the subcommittee groups meet and the leaders of each group and their contact information.

Jason Barn inquired about the extent the City of Evanston has communicated with other municipalities that are interested in reparations. He noted that he has been briefing the mayors of Oakland, California on Evanston’s reparations process.

Daisy, of the seventh ward, shared how the idea of defunding the police and reparations correlate. Daisy suggested that funds from the Police Department could be reinvested into communities that have been systematically devoid of resources. Daisy also shared that defunding the police has to be rooted in a historical/reparations movement.
Cindy Levitt inquired about ways to get involved in the reparations process through the subcommittees.

**Discussion**

Alderman Rainey clarified that the funding of nonprofits is not on the Reparations Subcommittee’s agenda at this time.

Alderman Simmons noted that the City of Evanston is focused on local reparations. She noted that other organizations are hosting talks on reparations and offering strategies on how communities can implement reparations.

Alderman Simmons noted the current condition of the nation and how it has highlighted the importance of reparations. She added that reparations work must be done as a community. That work involves the injured community doing the work on remedy and the entire community owning it has a community goal.

Alderman Simmons shared the reparations guide developed by Kamm Howard. The guide catalogs the feedback from the community into NCOBRA’s (National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America) 5 basic components for full reparations at the local level.

Alderman Simmons reviewed the components. She noted that the community must first cease bad actions and policies that have led to the need for repair. She noted that the City Council must think about ways to improve policy, ordinances, and budget to reverse bad actions and to make Evanston livable for everyone.

Alderman’s also shared that the guide describes the difference between direct benefits and collective/community benefits. She added that the intention of the Reparations Fund is to have targeted policy that could measurably impact and repair the damages done to the black Evanstonian community.

In regards to the Subcommittees next step, Alderman Simmons noted that the Subcommittee prioritized housing as an initial remedy policy due to the exodus of the black community. She noted that homeownership builds and creates generational wealth.

Alderman Simmons also shared other recommendations the community had shared with the Subcommittee. She noted that the Subcommittee plans to address the feedback. The feedback might not be addressed in the reparations process, but the feedback could inform how the City improve and shape policy.

Alderman’s Simon’s noted that there have been talks about excluding black folks that have different heritage from the reparations process. She noted that those families have experienced the same negative impacts as African Americans. There is no intention of excluding any black person from reparations programming based on where their ancestry.
Alderman Rainey shared that she does not believe public funds can be used for a real estate trust. She announced that on July 1st individuals would begin paying the cannabis tax. New cannabis licenses will also be issued in July.

Alderman Braithwaite agreed and reinforced Alderman Simmons’s sentiment regarding the rumor excluding Black folks that have different heritage from reparations programming.

Alderman Simmons noted that Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste introduced reparations to Evanston in 2002. She added that Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste would like to introduce to the Subcommittee a process for public participation. Judge Jean-Baptiste shared that to get the work of the reparations done, there needs to be a predictable process and a process to harness input from the community regarding remedy strategies.

Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste suggested the Subcommittee adopt a proposal that would allow individuals or groups to submit applications based upon the reparations’ focus areas. The applications would be reviewed by individuals who make up the Reparations Stakeholder Authority. The approved applications would then be sent to the City Council for consideration.

Ndona Muboyai inquired whether such a process is counterproductive. She noted that the community is already coming together and making suggestions regarding solutions. Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste responded that the application process allows for ideas to be consolidated and assess based on several reparative remedy criteria.

Ndona Muboyai also inquired about the selection of individuals for the Reparations Stakeholder Authority. Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste responded that the members would be comprised of individuals from black churches, from the second, fifth, eighth, and ninth wards, and individuals with a background in health, education, housing, and economic development. The Reparations Stakeholder Authority in conjunction with the Reparations Subcommittee would be the decision-making bodies.

Alderman Rainey clarified that the proposal is more programmatic than just an application process.

Tina Paden inquired about the previous discussion ideas, information from the meeting at Gibbs Morrison, the Saturday meetings at the City of Evanston, and how that information is being applied to this cause. Alderman Simmons responded that she is committed to not losing track of that feedback. The feedback will be shared with the Subcommittee.

Alderman Braithwaite noted that the Reparations Subcommittee should be expanded for the process to move forward.
Alderman Simmons noted the Subcommittee has received Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste’s recommendation. She suggested the Committee prioritize the suggestions that were given already. Alderman Rainey added that the proposal will take on more meaning once the City is in a position to allocate funds. The proposal provides a structure for the allocation of funds. Alderman Simmons commented that the proposal does not prevent individuals from sharing their feedback with the Subcommittee.

Kimberly inquired about the next Subcommittee meeting. The Subcommittee agreed to move the meeting time to 9:15 a.m.

**Communication**

Dino Robinson, of Shorefront Legacy Center, announced that Shorefront has been working with the Historic Preservation Commission to designate African-American cultural sites throughout Evanston. A resolution recognizing African-American cultural sites would be placed on the June 22 City Council Agenda.

Alderman Simmons announced the next meeting would be held on June 19. The Subcommittee would be discussing housing initiatives.

Alderman Simmons also announced Juneteenth events that would be held throughout the community.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Alderman Rainey to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.