Minutes

Called to order/Declaration of Quorum:
The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Chair Alderman Robin Rue Simmons. Committee members Aldermen Ann Rainey and Peter Braithwaite were also present. Staff members Kimberly Richardson, Nicholas Cummings, and Tasheik Kerr were also present.

Approval of Minutes
It was moved by Alderman Rainey, seconded by Peter Braithwaite, to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2020 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion
Alderman Simmons summarized the presentation made by Mark Edward Alston. Mark presented on the history of mortgage originations and mortgage disparities amongst races. Alderman Simmons mentioned the recommendation made by Mark to offer down payment assistance, assistance to senior residents, and to work with the bank community. Alderman Simmons suggested the Subcommittee reach out to the banking community to find out what services they offer that would complement the reparations work.

Alderman Ann Rainey noted she was once Chair of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Committee. She recalled the Housing Rehab Program for multi-family buildings. The City partnered with the Evanston Housing Coalition to convert a twenty-four unit building to a twelve unit condominium that served 12 families. Staff was asked to look into the history of this program.

Alderman Simmons inquired about the City’s down payment assistance program. She suggested that if the City were to offer down payment assistant that this benefit goes directly to families without any lien or loan tied to it. Staff was asked to research whether
the City had ever done a program like this. Kimberly suggested staff also look at other first-time buyer housing assistance programs. Alderman Simmons added that she would like to know what programs worked in the past and the terms for owner-occupied dwellings.

Several community members suggested other models the Subcommittee should inquire into. Staff was asked to look into the Chicago Land Trust and the City of Winter Park, Florida Community Land Trust.

Staff was also asked to provide a report on how the City could demystify the concerns of residents regarding the City’s Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Alderman Simmons noted she would like the banks present at a Subcommittee meeting. She would like the banks to address creative mortgage financing and other services. It was noted that Housing Action Illinois has a program whereby the organization collaborates with financial institutions to create affordable housing.

Alderman Simmons stated that there is a New York couple, Charles Barron and Inez Barron, that has worked to stabilize their community by providing one hundred percent affordable housing developments. Staff was asked to research this model. A community member suggested looking to the affordable housing model developed by Abyssinian Baptist Church.

**Communication**

Alderman Simmons announced the Reparations website has been updated. Kimberly noted the addition of a facilitator guide, reports, and a mailing list subscription widget. The webpage will have a new design by the next subcommittee meeting.

Alderman Simmons introduced Dr. Michael Nabors, Pastor of Second Baptist Church in Evanston. Alderman Simmons stated Dr. Nabors would be helping with the community outreach process. Dr. Nabors proposed reaching the community through dialogue sessions on reparations. Houses of worship and community organizations will be asked to host sessions. Alderman Simmons added that she would like the discussion to focus on the three areas around reparations.

**Public comment**

Three individuals spoke. It was noted that the Town Hall on Affordable Housing was underrepresented. A community member also requested the subcommittee inquire into a real estate investment policy model.

Alderman Simmons announced the next meeting will be held on Friday, March 27, 2020.