

## Virtual Meeting Minutes - 5/3/2023

### \*Amended Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Rules of Engagement
3. Introductions
4. Motions and Discussions by TF Member Greenridge
5. Proposed New Sections of the Ordinance - **tabled**
6. Reparations Task Force Ordinance
  - a. Legislative History
  - b. Expectations/Deliverables
    - i. Timeline
    - ii. RFP
  - c. Compensation
7. Truth and Reconciliation and Reparations Framework
8. Mayor's Office Staff Support
9. Committees
  - a. Community Engagement
  - b. Communications
  - c. Research and Writing
10. Discussion of Future Meetings
11. Adjourn

### Participants:

1. Chairman Joseph Feaster
2. Lori Nelson
3. Susan McCollin
4. Maggie Kormann
5. Carrie Mays
6. Denilson Fanfan
7. Dorothea Jones
8. George Greenridge
9. L'Merchie Frazier
10. Na'tisha Mills
11. Brea Thomas
12. Harrison Clark
13. Jamarhl Crawford
14. Maddie Lee
15. Roeshana Moore-Evans

16. Saskia VannJames
17. Tomiqua Williams
18. Tracy K. Smith
19. Sieh Samura
20. Caleb Mathis
21. Kim Gonsalves
22. Lily Song
23. Aaron Jones
24. Jisca Philippe

Chairman Joseph Feaster opened the meeting of the City of Boston's Reparation Task Force at 3:40PM, noting the meeting will mostly deal with formation and administration issues. He outlined rules of engagement for the meeting.

1. Introductions of RTF members
  - a. Joseph Feaster - chair of the RTF
  - b. Dorothea Jones
  - c. George Greenridge
  - d. L'Merchie Frazier
  - e. Carrie Mays
  - f. Denilson Fanfan
2. Chairman Feaster motions to amend the agenda: to include: the welcome, rules, motions and discussions by TF Member Greenridge, proposed new sections to the ordinance, discussion of future meetings
3. Motions by TF Member Greenridge:
  - a. Motion 1: Motion by G. Greenidge to plan and host a public meeting on reparations introducing members of the task force, sharing the proposed timeline, and hearing from the community in general (comments, thoughts and suggestions, and initial feedback). Meeting to be held in June 2023 on and around Boston's Juneteenth Celebration with a suitable location in Nubian Square, Roxbury Public Library, Bolling Building, or Roxbury Community College.
    - i. Motion was discussed by TF and the importance of accessibility to the community was stressed. Sentiment of the body was to have the meeting (no formal vote).
  - b. Motion 2: Motion by G. Greenidge to plan and host a public meeting on reparations to hear from representatives from other municipalities, government entities, other reparations task force members from other cities, and academics and reparations activists from other cities on their processes and action plans for "best practices". The meeting should be scheduled in July

2023 around the NAACP convention time at a suitable location which might include a location near the Seaport (or Bolling Building/Library in Nubian Square.) The meeting could also be a ZOOM meeting as a suggestion as well.

- i. Motion was discussed by TF members, timing was expressed as a concern as it overlaps with NAACP conference, but importance of sharing best practices was agreed upon.
  - ii. Chairman Feaster proposed flexibility of timeline, asking COB staff to begin work on that.
- c. Motion 3: Motion by G. Greenidge to have Chairperson Feaster and another representative from the task force to finalize the initial budget for meetings, public hearings, and community inputs as well as compensation for task force members as special employees with Mayor Michelle Wu and her representatives.
- d. Motion 4: Motion by G. Greenidge to review the approved ordinance language by the Mayor and the Boston City Council and seek clarification on roles and responsibilities with task force members and city officials.
- e. Motion 5: Motion by G. Greenidge to have staff set up social media channels and/or marketing communications materials on the website, and additionally, set up media newspaper archives, and news interviews, for the general public to track the public discussion on reparations in Boston on the task force community engagement and media opportunities. In addition, set up marketing and communications materials on the Task Force with a QR code for more information.
  - i. Chairman Feaster is working with COB staff to accomplish this.
- f. Motion 6: Motion by G. Greenidge to have staff set up an information table with marketing and communications materials on the City reparations task force at Boston's Annual Juneteenth Celebration in June 2023 at Franklin Park. In addition, collect emails for an e-list for communication with residents.
- g. Motion 7: Motion by G. Greenidge to review the language in the proposed RFP for research partners and provide suggestions and next steps with the City of Boston cabinet and staff members.
- h. Motion 8: Motion by G. Greenidge for City of Boston staff to develop stationery and other collateral materials with the City of Boston branded materials and logo for the City of Boston Task Members. In addition, Reparations Task Member names should be listed as well on such stationery and other suggested materials. ( Please provide proof for the Task Force members' input and review. )
- i. Motion 9: Motion by G. Greenidge to review "State of Massachusetts Open Meeting Law Guidelines" and for us as a Task Force to ask for guidance from

the Attorney General's office in regard to our advisory and task force capacity to the Mayor of Boston. We argue that we are "exempt" from certain requirements as stated in their 2018 handbook, and not able to move forward with administrative and programming tasks with our suggested timeline by the Mayor of Boston.

- j. Motion 10: Motion by G. Greenidge to the City of Boston staff for more detailed meeting notices for the City of Boston Reparations Task Force making sure that the general public is aware that a meeting is either for "administrative matters" or a "general public hearing" where input from the public will be encouraged. Moreover, we should review other Task Force's communication strategies in other cities for meeting notices.
  - k. Motion 11: Motion by G. Greenidge to encourage the City of Boston staff and the City of Boston Reparations Task Force members to provide more notice of at least 5 business days as a general practice for hearing/meeting notices for the Task Force. We understand that 48 hours is needed, however, we as a Task Force want to make sure the public is aware of our meetings with extra notice. We will consider this as an extended courtesy if possible.
  - l. Motion 12: Motion by G. Greenidge to clarify that the Chair of the Task Force and/or Task Force designees will decide when Task Force meetings, committee meetings, and public hearings that require public notice. This motion does not pertain to City of Boston staff members and Task Force members in organizing and participating in 1) public awareness opportunities and 2) community events and 3) city-planned events for outreach on the Task Force activities.
4. Task Force Ordinance Timeline – amended due to delayed formation of task force
    - a. RFP – tabled, TF members and COB staff need to convene, organized by Lori Nelson and/or George Williams
  5. Committees: Chairman Feaster opened up for comment from TF members
    - a. Committees will be reporting back on their work to the full TF meetings
    - b. Community Engagement
    - c. Communications
      - i. Discussion of if this should be a COB staff function rather than a TF committee – agreement from Chairman that this should not be a committee
    - d. Research and Writing
      - i. Duties: working on the formatting of the RFP, working with hired researchers
      - ii. Need a clear scope of the work to be done on RFP
  6. Chairman Feaster will be making a written request to change the June deadline in order to remain in accordance with the ordinance.

7. Discussion of timeline of future meetings
  - a. Chairman Feaster proposed meeting monthly, discussion of virtual vs. in person meetings, prospect of meeting during the summer, and timing
  - b. **Next meeting on Wednesday May 17th @3:30-5PM on Zoom** to discuss updates on communications, Motions 1 and 2, RFP committee updates
  - c. Following a meeting in June to further discuss the realities of George Greenridge's motions.
  - d. Committee meetings continue throughout summer
  - e. **September - December: monthly meetings on every third Wednesday @3:30-5PM**
8. Chairman Feaster moved to adjourn at 5:05PM