

Boston, Apr 14, 2025

Bruce C. Bolling Building
2300 Washington St Roxbury, MA 02119

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Racial Task Force Meeting

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82502236994>

Slide Deck:  [4/14 RTF Meeting Slides](#)

Agenda:

1. Chair of Reparations Task Force Opens Meeting and takes roll call of RTF members
2. Opening remarks
3. Community Partnership Program
 - a. Beacon Hill Scholars
 - b. Loring Greenough House
 - c. Jibril Haynes
 - d. Afrimerican Culture Initiative Inc.
 - e. American Descendants Of Slaves
4. Q&A for Community Partners
5. Update for Next Meeting - May 12, 2025 (second Monday of the month)
6. Public Comments
7. Adjournment

Notes:

- **Meeting called to order at [6:31pm]**
 - Opening Remarks by Antonia Edwards (AE) leading the meeting in the absence of Chair Feaster.
 - Present taskforce members greet the community members attending the meeting
 - Introduction by Antonia Edwards (AE) of the Community Partnership Program
- **Present:**
 - L'Marchie Frizier (LF)
 - Mariama White-Hammond (MWH)
 - Antonia Edwards (AE)
- **Absent:**
 - Chair Joseph Feaster
 - Byron Rushing

- Dorothea Jones (DJ)

- **Presentations:**

- Jibril Haynes - presents on community partnership program
 - Worked on Documentary called “Myth of Black Dad’s” to question the myth and narratives around “absent fathers” and the reasons behind these narratives and stereotypes through the power of film and community interviews
 - Documentary is shown with various testimonies with Black men and fathers who shared lived experience around the concept of fatherhood and their own interpretation of that relationship
- Dorothy Clock - Loring Greenough House
 - Loring Greenough House plays a role in the JP community
 - Invites the public to come visit the Thursday on the lawn program
 - Held a discussion with the community on the subject of reparations
 - March: brought together a group of people and first asked: “How can we have conversations?” “What are the persistent effects of slavery if they were taken off the books in 1783 in this part of the world?”
 - Unpacking the history and complicated narratives around slavery and how the Commonwealth of Massachusetts approached it (and also didn’t).
 - Colonizers still found ways to tilt the economics in their favor through bondage.
 - Moderator allowed for discussion around concepts of “anti-Blackness” and how that interposed to concepts of “racism”
 - → There was a deep community discussion around the experiences of both and the feelings and emotions surrounding the use of “anti-Blackness” in vocabulary and word associations around the word “Black” and “that which is Black” and how it relates and differs to the concept of “racism”
 - Underscored the difficulty of discussions because as a community, there are many takeaways and emotions

and lived experiences which sometimes align and also sometimes differ. The presenter shared that they would have loved to have had many more conversations to continue to unpack the history and how it unfolded for the Black community.

- Beacon Hill Scholars - Peter Snoad
 - Shared the personal journey of learning about her own family tree and their role as Black abolitionist
 - Started as Beacon Hill History Nuts and evolved into the Beacon Hill Scholars
 - Founder: Horice Seldon (video shared of his work on the Abolition Acre: Trail)
 - Shared about the walking tour and the evolution of the tour to a virtual tour that will be soon published on the website with an audio tour
 - Underscored the importance of making the perspective of the Black Abolitionist accessible with a virtual tour (can also be followed in-person with audio script)
 - 10 stops - with multiple accessibility points (written scripts, audio clips, in person self-guided, virtual tours with images)
 - Will be published on the newly launched website by the end of May
- American Descendants Of Slaves (ADOS) - R. Stewert
 - Offered an informational and listening session on Reparations in October 2024
 - Focus and shared ADOS mission statement and focus points on the agenda
 - Wealth income,
 - Housing
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Employment
 - Access to credit
 - Financial wellbeing
 - Discussed definitions, timelines and community thoughts (see slides)
 - Identified various crucial points in history (see slides)
 - Discussed modern reparations legislation (see slides)
 - Discussion on lineage and identity
 - Discussion on wealth inequality
 - Timelines on reparations discussions (see slides)

- Discussion on eligibility (see slides)
- Afrimerican Culture Initiative Inc. - Marlon Solomon
 - Boston based non-profit
 - Restorative project management building culturally and community informed infrastructure development
 - Addressing cultural erasure (see slides)
 - Can we articulate what was erased?
 - What is the value?
 - Using research on artifacts and intergenerational stories and artifacts
 - Shows COB anti-displacement map and shares displacement concerns (see slides)
 - Highlights Roxbury cultural hub (see slides) and displacement effects
 - Motivations for work: “What are the narratives we can recover from our elders and advocate and build today through community?”
- **Questions to the Presenter:**
 - Questions for Jibril Haynes on the documentary
 - Public member provided comment thanking the documentary film maker
 - Public member provided question on the length of time it took to make the documentary
 - Answer: Over a week of filming
 - Public member provided comments on how the documentary provides a counter narrative and underscores that the way to combat stereo types need to be combated with narratives of care
 - Answer: Has a pride about fatherhood that he is trying to foster (claiming kids and raising children above and beyond). The documentary is a reflection of the creators own healing journey as a son, acceptance of context, and pride of a father navigating parenthood.
 - Questions for Dorothy Clock - Loring Greenough House
 - A public member provided a question asking what the takeaways were from the conversations?
 - Answer: Takeaway was that more community conversations need to take place. Something to ask themselves is “who is the audience?” “who felt they could come and share?” “how to we foster these conversations with more people who don’t talk together enough”

- Public member provided comment around positive associations with the word “Black”
- Questions for Beacon Hill Scholars
 - Public member provided question on where the website information can be found
 - Taskforce offers to share the website information before the June meeting
 - Questions for ADOS
 - Public member provided comment on urban renewal and stated it has federal roots
 - Answer: yes, the fix it federal but cities complied
 - Public members provided questions on if the presentation calculated it's numbers on housing? Also provided comment on The Boston Black community in Boston had historical gutting and Black people continue to leave the city. The destruction of the Black family and fathers should be addressed along with drug and gun safety. Offered a prayer for the families who lost their property to imminent domain
 - A public member provided a question asking if the slides are accessible?
 - Answer: Yes, slides will be in meeting minutes
 - Public member provided comment on wanted research
 - AD clarifies that the presenters products will be shared as part of the task force work
 - Questions for Afrimerican Culture Initiative Inc.
 - Public members provided questions on creating home coming tours to Africa?
 - Answer: Not yet, starting with Roxbury roots
 - Public member provided comment on her role as an immigrant and past experience as a driver during bussing
- **Public Comment:**
 - Public member provided comment
- **Update for Next Meeting:**
 - Update for Next Meeting - May 12, 2025 (second Monday of the month)
- **Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM**