



## Reparations Task Force Meeting Minutes

Virtual (Zoom)

Monday, March 11 2024

6:30PM-7:30PM

Please watch the video from our meeting [here](#)

Meeting called to order at 6:42 PM

Opening Remarks and Language Interpretation Information

Present:

1. Joseph Feaster - Chair
2. L'Merchie Frazier
3. George R. Greenidge, Jr.
4. Dorothea Jones
5. Carrie Mays

Absent:

1. Denilson Fanfan
2. Damani Williams
3. Na'tisha Mills

Approval of Minutes (action item)

- Maggie Kormann and Ajay Singh presented the proposed general and date-specific edits to the minutes from the May 3, 2023, June 7, 2023, July 13, 2023, September 20, 2023, and February 6, 2024
- TFM L'Merchie moved to accept the minutes, TFM Dorothea seconded and TFM Carrie Mays and TF Chair Feaster both voted in favor
- TFM George Greenidge Jr. was unable to unmute during the initial vote, he introduced a friendly amendment to have the corrected minutes sent out to the TF members and the vote be suspended to the next meeting
  - 5 affirmative votes and 0 abstentions: George Greenidge Jr., Carrie Mays, Dorothea Jones, L'Merchie Frazier, Chair Joseph Feaster

Minutes taken by: Maggie Kormann



- TFM Dorothea Jones underscored her proposed edit to have the full names of community members that gave public comment are listed on minutes
- TFM George Greenidge Jr. underscored that he was pushing the RTF and City Staff to remain accountable to creating standard procedures for minutes since the first meeting

### Standard Procedures (discussion item)

- Ajay Singh presented the Standard Operating Procedures document, which was shared with the RTF in advance of the meeting on March 5th
- The document enumerates duties and responsibilities, roles, quorum, compensation, public meetings agenda and structure, subgroups, motions, and decision-making
- TFM Carrie Mays asked what is “quorum” in the context of subgroups, Ajay explained that if there are more than 4 members present in a subgroup meeting it becomes a community hearing per Open Meeting Law, therefore all subgroups should be 4 members or less
- TFM Dorothea Jones moved to accept the Standard Operating Procedures, TFM Carrie Mays seconded the motion; TFM Chair Feaster opened for discussion
  - TFM George Greenidge Jr. asked who wrote the SOP document, Ajay replied that the City staff team wrote it collectively and Chair Feaster
  - TFM Greenidge Jr. also explained he is not comfortable with the SOP language, and feels that the document is too restrictive and he would like to add revisions
  - TFM Greenidge Jr. introduced a friendly amendment to the maker of the motion that the document be moved to a subgroup so he is able to give revisions
  - TFM Dorothea Jones commented that the document was shared ahead of time and members should have already provided their feedback, but accepted the amendment
    - TFM Carrie Mays seconded the amendment, and the vote passed to send the document to a subgroup
    - TFM Chair Feaster opposed the amendment
  - TFM Mays asked how we proceed without the Standard Procedure document, TFM Chair Feaster replied that the RTF will move forward without standard procedures



- TFM Mays asked for further clarification on the process of friendly amendments, and asked to revert her vote back to accept the original SOP document
- TFM Chair Feaster clarified that reverting her vote is not possible as the vote passed

## Public Comment

- Amanda Kufuor: asked what the timeline and process will be moving forward for the RTF without standard procedures
  - Chair Feaster replied that this will not impede the work delineated by the ordinance, and the work will continue
- Amanda Kufuor: commented that, based on their experience with operations and committees, City staff should ensure that the RTF does not get stuck in “analysis paralysis”, and should not overthink documents and leave room for risks moving forward
- Antonia Edwards: thanked the RTF for their work, and thanked Chair Feaster for his recent WBUR interview. Antonia also urged people to revert back to the ordinance to understand the purpose of the RTF
- Juwan Skeens: commented that they understand this is a difficult process and appreciates the RTF valuing democracy first, and underscored the need for transparency; also asked for flyers to be created to advertise future meetings; and asked for clarification behind the timing of the research partner’s work,
  - TFM Chair Feaster replied that flyers are not related to the topic of the present meeting, but that the RTF is in compliance with Open Meeting Law with how they currently advertise meetings; and that the process will take as much time as is needed and is outlined in the ordinance for efficient and proper work
  - Juwan followed up to ask how long the RTF will be active, and Chair Feaster replied that the current timeline will have the RTF finish work on December 31 2024, but he expects the timeline will be extended
- Ramona Brown: thanked the team for the outreach surrounding this meeting, commended the RTF for working on behalf of the descendants of slaves in Boston. Asked how could community members assist in the research or help generally with the Task Force’s work



- TFM Chair Feaster explained the role of the research teams, explained that community members can most be helpful by being present and engaged in community meetings as well as to engage in the future, once the research report is released; community members can also give comments and questions at [reparations@boston.gov](mailto:reparations@boston.gov)

Chair Feaster adjourned the meeting at 7:44PM

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