



Reparations Task Force Meeting Minutes

Virtual (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 17 2023

3:30PM-5:30PM

Watch the recording of the meeting [here](#)

Meeting called to order at 3:39 PM

Present:

1. Joseph Feaster - Chair
2. Dorothea Jones
3. L'Merchie Frazier
4. Denilson Fanfan
5. Damani Williams
6. Carrie Mays
7. Na'tisha Mills
8. George R. Greenidge, Jr.

Opening Remarks (Chair Feaster)

- Chair Feaster opened the meeting by explaining that the main purpose of the meeting is to deal with administrative matters, and asked the public to limit their comments through the chat and reactions.

Administrative Procedures

- A number of administrative motions were raised by TFM Greenidge at the previous meeting to discuss today.
- Dr. Greenidge has been unresponsive thus far to the Chair, she will no longer be part of the Task Force.
- Former TFM David Harris has resigned.

Motions by TFM George Greenidge Jr. (Discussion Item)



- Since the last meeting, Chair Feaster has met with the CoB staff led by Lori Nelson to iron out administrative matters.
- In response to motion #1 to hold a meeting around Juneteenth, Chair Feaster and staff felt the RTF was not ready for this; so the motion was denied.
- In response to motion #2 regarding holding a meeting in/around the NAACP convention in July, Chair Feaster and CoB staff feel the TF is not prepared to present at this time.
- In response to motion #3 regarding the budget, there is no budget set forth in the ordinance for the RTF but there is money allocated by the Equity Cabinet for the Reparations process, which the Task Force cannot make motions about. Compensation has been finalized, and Lori Nelson noted that each TFM will be given up to \$8,000 for their work, and the Chair will be given up to \$10,000 over three payment periods.
- In response to motion #4 regarding clarification around the ordinance and roles of Task Force Members and staff, this motion will remain pending as TFMs can ask any specific questions they have, but the ordinance is relatively clear.
- In response to motion #5 regarding communications and marketing channels, Lori Nelson spoke about the current boston.gov/reparations which will house all information on the Task Force, and the communications staff will promote RTF events and information. TFMs are able to utilize their own social media to uplift communications as well. Chair Feaster deferred this to later in the process.
- Chair Feaster asked for comments from the RTF in response to the motions.
 - TFM Jones, in response to motion #2, asked if individual members can partake in meetings with the NAACP regarding reparations. Chair Feaster clarified that individual members can speak to their personal views but should note that they do not speak for the RTF.
 - TFM Greenidge provided clarification on motion #2, and Chair Feaster asked if the Task Force feels a June meeting is necessary.
 - TFM Mills said that it is important to formally introduce themselves to the community, and therefore should have a meeting in June.
 - TFM Mays asked for clarification on the timeline, and Chair Feaster spoke to the original timeline outlined in the ordinance. He shared that he feels a better use of RTF time would be to formulate a concrete



plan of action rather than going into community to introduce themselves.

- TFM Jones said that mid-July would be a better time for an introductory meeting in the community, so people can see the RTF and know they are working and visible.
- TFM Frazier said that the RTF has a responsibility to keep a finger on the pulse of the community, regardless of if they have anything of substance to present; therefore she is for this meeting.
- TFM Mays agrees on the importance of introducing themselves to the community. She also asked if the RTF will be taking a vacation after the listening session.
- Chair Feaster: The majority of members want a June meeting, so we will ask Lori and the CoB staff to iron out logistics for an introductory meeting and listening session in the community.
- TFM Greenidge proposed Thursday June 8th in the community room at the BPL.
- TFM Jones and Mays both noted that a community meeting is better timed after 5pm. TFM Mays also asked for clarification on the setup of that meeting.
- Chair Feaster asked the CoB administrative staff to figure out logistics and details for the June meeting at the Bolling Building.
- TFM Mays asked how the RTF will be promoting the meeting and what safety measures will be taken.
- RTF decided to have the June meeting hybrid with registration, safety measures, and minutes.
- TFM Mills asked for clarification on the budget, Lori Nelson noted that there is no official budget for the RTF but the City is looking at ways to financially support the process.
- Chair Feaster noted he is having weekly meetings with the CoB staff to iron out administrative issues, and that TFMs can interact with the CoB staff to give their suggestions.
- TFM Greenidge raised a concern regarding the capacity of the CoB staff to manage the RTF.
- TFM Greenidge raised his 9th motion regarding Open Meeting Law Guidelines, Chair Feaster replied that corporation counsel advises the RTF to



use OML and that the CoB staff can inquire with the Attorney General's office.

RFP Proposal (Informational item presented by Chair Feaster)

- TFM Frazier and Jones would like to join the RFP process and meet with the City staff. Lori Nelson asked them to pick three dates in the next two weeks to get together for a meeting; TFM Mays and Mills asked to join the RFP subgroup.

Request for Extension of Timeline

- Initial timeline called for Phase 1 report in June, which is no longer possible. Chair Feaster asked the RTF for their thoughts on extending the deadline to December 31st 2023.
 - TFM Jones, Frazier, and Mays agreed.
 - Chair Feaster noted the RTF is committed to doing this work well, not rushed, and therefore is putting a pause on some of the motions as they are not ready to be addressed.

Old Business and New Business

- TFM Jones Motion 1: That the City of Boston, along with the RTF, form a list of members to replace those that drop off so they operate at full capacity.
- TFM Jones Motion 2: That the City of Boston ensures that a staff member is hired to work exclusively with the RTF to manage all operations and logistics.
 - No objections from the RTF in response, Chair Feaster will continue to discuss this with the CoB staff.
- TFM Greenidge brought forward motions 13-15 regarding public meeting notes, minutes, and agendas to be posted on the CoB website; that the City of Boston set aside a fund of \$60,000 for mini grants for art, community engagement, teach ins, and deliberate democracy; that the CoB staff encourage all input and feedback from community members to be directed to the reparations@boston.gov email and will triage that information to the RTF when appropriate.
- TFM Greenidge also asked to review minutes from the previous meeting.
- TFM Mays requested a timekeeper.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Feaster at 5:30 PM.



MOTIONS for the City of Boston Reparations Task Force to Review:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.)

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.

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.

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.

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.

DRAFT