



State of Illinois  
African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission

**African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission  
Full Committee Meeting  
Friday, February 21, 2025 at 1:00 pm**

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**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order – 1:13 pm**

**II. Roll Call of Commissioners**

Commissioner Algee – Present  
Secretary Elion – Present  
Commissioner Jones – Present  
Commissioner Mayers – Absent  
Commissioner Moore – Absent  
Commissioner Sachnoff – Present  
Chair Slaughter – Present  
Commissioner Phelon – Present  
Commissioner Williams – Present  
Vice Chair Taylor – Present  
Commissioner Cosey-Lane – Present  
Senator Belt – Absent  
Representative Harper – Absent  
Commissioner Trask – Present  
Commissioner Watson – Present  
Representative Weber – Absent

Quorum was established with 11 members in attendance in person.

**III. Approve Meeting Minutes (Quorum Required)**

- a. **Motion to approve the December Full Commission Meeting minutes and October to December Research Committee made by Commission Algee, seconded by Commissioner Sachnoff – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**

**IV. Chair's Report**

- a. Chair Slaughter thanked ADCRC for attendance at Evanston Public Hearing and noted opportunity to increase PE.

**V. Public Engagement Subcommittee Chair's Report**

- a. NBC5 has resumed shooting their weekly series "Road to Reparations" that will have aired each week of Black History month and will conclude with the airing of the commission interview that will be recorded later today.



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**VI. CMS Coordinator Updates**

- a. Program Manager Johnson referenced email in which she shared a potential venue for Bellville for April 26. It is the Southwestern Illinois College accommodating 188 with AV equipment.
- b. Rob Dixon recommended him working with Commissioner Watson and other volunteers before presenting legislation analysis to the ADCRC at monthly meetings. Commissioners Phelon and Algee volunteered to participate in the legislative workgroup. He will reach out to them individually.

**VII. Old Business**

- a. Public Hearing Planning
  - i. Evanston Public Hearing Planning (Quorum Required)
    1. Debrief
      - a. Vice Chair Taylor said the execution and speakers were awesome. She commended the venue as appropriate. She added that the public should be engaged more.
      - b. Chair Slaughter said he was told that people were impressed with speakers specifically Iyana and Tonika.
      - c. Secretary Elion stated there were 127 RSVP's, approximately 100 attendees (which is 3 out of 4), 3 state senators, Cook County Assessor and staff, Governor's Office Chief Equity Officer, several Evanston councilmembers in attendance in addition to Evanston Mayor Daniel Biss giving the Welcome, Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton's video of support, and US Congressman Jonathan Jackson's closing remarks. NBC news aired same day coverage highlighted the announcement of the Bellville Public Hearing. He thanked everyone for their efforts and attendance with special thanks to the Commissioner Jones, Trask, Algee, Chair Slaughter and CMS for securing speakers, legislators, and producing another great event.
      - d. Dina voiced feedback to have a link or actual video on ADCRC website. Program Manager Johnson said they will be able to add them.
      - e. Chair Slaughter stated there have been suggestions for public speakers that the ADCRC has been noting and can still appear.
      - f. Commissioner Williams noted ADCRC growth and suggested discussing strategy for marketing our events that may require budget. He commended the commission for livestreaming. Chair Slaughter responded that the PR firm will assist a lot with this aspect.
    2. Motion on attendance protocol
      - a. Chair Slaughter voiced feedback that it is distracting to see commissioners entering stage during public hearing after it has started. He suggested being seated for the entire public hearing in a staging area instead of on stage for late arriving commissioners after 10 minutes. Director



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DeVaughn agreed that once it starts they should be seated off stage.

- b. **Motion to have commissioners seated off stage during public hearings if they arrive more than 10 minutes late made by Commission Cosey-Lane, seconded by Vice Chair Taylor – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**

ii. Bellville Public Hearing Planning

1. Expert Speaker Confirmation

- a. Vice Chair Taylor stated stakeholders are engaged in the area. They requested repeating in the East St. Louis locations, but she explained the ADCRC vote.
- b. The following speakers have been booked
  - i. Andrew Theising
  - ii. Peggy Lecant
  - iii. Father Joseph Brown
  - iv. Tiffany Lee
  - v. Tandra Taylor
  - vi. Shavon Wilson
- c. She stated that the speakers will later be aligned to topics and designated as community or expert speakers. She will email the bios of the speakers to the ADCRC. Program Manager Johnson requested name spellings and headshots as soon as possible, then there will be a 2 day turnaround for the flyer creation.
- d. **Motion to have speakers approved as listed above made by Commission Cosey-Lane, seconded by Vice Chair Taylor – all voted in favor – Chair Slaughter abstained - Motion passed.**

2. Location/Date Approval

- a. **Motion to have location of Southwestern Illinois College on April 26 approved made by Commission Jones, seconded by Commissioner Algee – all voted in favor - Motion passed.**

3. Community Speaker Proposals

- a. Vice Chair Taylor reiterated the following suggestions for community speakers and added that 2 additional speakers will be added and voted on in March ADCRC meeting.
  - i. Tandra Taylor – member of SIUE
  - ii. Shavon Wilson – Illinois Juneteenth Committee member

b. Research Team Updates

i. Expert Workshop Update

- 1. Chair Slaughter stated the April 25 workshop will already have too many people to be beneficial so they would like to limit it to 1 commissioner attending, which would be him. He emphasized that it will be a capacity and workflow issue during these working session with outside experts who are approved by Research Subcommittee Chair if they are also engaging additional commissioners questions.
- 2. There will be a debrief for the ADCRC in a separate session, possibly in the May Research Subcommittee meeting that all



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commissioners will be able to attend. Program Manager Johnson suggested Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 10a-12p for virtual attendance by all.

**ii. Research Team Progress Report Scheduling**

1. Research Team will brief ADCRC on the work that they have done and experts. Commissioner Cosey-Lane and Watson requested a teleconference for all commissioners to only listen in. Chair Slaughter will ask if they are open to it.

**c. Public Affairs RFP Process Timeline Update**

- i. Secretary Elion and Assistant Director Williams provided updates that Final Scoring will be concluding today, then contracting can occur in April.

**d. Slavery Era Disclosure Bill**

**i. Internal/External Stakeholder Mapping**

1. Chair Slaughter suggested stakeholder mapping to be collaborative because the messaging has been different from discussion in ADCRC meeting. He suggested planning workshops. Commission Trask attended the press conference in Springfield and strategy session afterwards, adding that gaps in bill were intentional and left to be decided by the office. Rob suggested doing heavy lifting of developing the bill until ADCRC concerns are met. He added that Representative Harper can decide her course of action so intentional conversations with her should be our only and first step without messaging. Commissioner Jones expressed concern with not being updated by Rep Harper and maintaining a line of communication. Chair Slaughter clarified our vote was supporting the bill in concept, but others have since stated that ADCRC supports current version of the bill specifically. Director DeVaughn emphasized that CMS and ADCRC has not made a supporting statement. Rob suggested letting the working group research and provide an update to the full commission. Commissioner Cosey-Lane noted the ADCRC represents the citizens and should only represent their interests instead of crafting bill language like legislators. Chair Slaughter responded there is convergence of purpose between ADCRC and legislators. Secretary Elion added that knowing if the bill supports the people's interest by working with Governor's Equity Office and Representative Harper will answer if this bill could work or if ADCRC needs to represent the citizen's will of the statute separately. He also added the companion bill has been introduced by Senator Willie Preston SB2122 with no co-sponsors. The consensus was to have the working group provide research and a position on this bill and others going forward. The group will provide an update in coming full ADCRC meetings. Commissioner Sachnoff stated that the deadline for bills to be heard is on the day of the next ADCRC meeting and neither have been assigned to subcommittees.

**ii. Workshop Planning (not covered)**

**VIII. New Business**



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- a. Commission Report Out
  - i. Commissioner Cosey-Lane attended Governor's State of State speech and ILBCF Soiree and said it showed great unity and interest in our community's goals to avoid repeating historic mistakes. Ja'mal Green and Clayton Harris received awards which she strongly supported. The House of Representatives also gave Speaker Welch an award. ILBC also brought 200 citizens to the capital.
  - ii. Chair Slaughter spoke with Cook County Assessor Kaegi at the Evanston public hearing, who wants to engage the ADCRC on what programming looks like on taxation and property taxes. He will potentially bring them in to present along with Amber Henley who works with the Folded Map Project in the spring. Next season ADCRC monthly meeting speakers will be focused on vocational network expertise by bringing in labor experts and relying on the commissioners' expertise in these areas.
  - iii. Commissioner Jones stated philanthropic organizations want to participate in reparations via endowments and she will soon be in Washington DC for a philanthropy conference. She will bring back lessons learned.

**IX. Public Comment**

- a. 2 attendees in the room did not make a public comment.
- b. Nette and Shannon Wilson were virtual attendees who made no comment.
- c. Ernest Russell stated the ADCRC is connected to the Slavery Era Disclosure bill and should suggest changes. He emphasized that the main goal should be making reparations for the public. An example would be creating an office for reparations without necessarily being within the office of Equity as it is an example of existing DEI problematic structure. He commended the ADCRC on its work.

**X. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 pm.**

- a. **Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Algee, seconded by Vice Chair Taylor – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**