



State of Illinois
African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission

African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission Public Engagement Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 10:00am

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

- a. The Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

II. Roll Call of Commissioners

Chair Elion – Present in person

Vice Chair Taylor – Present in person in St. Louis at 10:15 am

Commissioner Algee – Present remotely

Commissioner Mayers – Present in person at 11:00 am

Commissioner Slaughter – Present remotely

By 11:00 am there was quorum present.

III. October 2023 Minutes

- a. **Motion to approve September 2023 minutes made by Secretary Elion, Seconded by Commissioner Mayers, all voted in favor – Motion passed.**

IV. Chair's Report

- a. Secretary Elion gave an overview of the goals of the meeting and mentioned activities performed since the last subcommittee meeting.
- b. Secretary Elion noted there were currently 206 individuals and organizations who have signed the Petition and that was a 40 person/organization increase since the October promotional event.

V. October Promotional Event

- a. There were 196 registrants and believe that there was a similar number present.
- b. Secretary Elion stated that the ADCRC did a good job engaging in the community and strategic organizations. Coordinator Johnson added that Commissioner Williams was a great conversation moderator, and the run of show was smooth. Assistant Director Williams, Cathy, and Parliamentarian Ninfo echoed those comments and added that the online broadcast was great. Cathy also mentioned that the partnership with the college was great and good input from the public about changing the name of the commission was valuable.



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- c. Secretary Elion added that the bios of the Commissioner did not make it on the screen for the public to view during the introductions and additional formal press coverage would have been great. Cathy added that working with partner organizations' communications departments and engaging with the members of the press on site could build press coverage for future promotional events not hosted by the state along with social media utilization. He also emphasized that informing the public about the opportunity to make public comment as they enter the venue for future events and adding a formal producer/talent wrangler role to planning documents.
- d. Secretary Elion also mentioned that all people who wanted to say something at the event speak to the commission.
- e. Cathy suggested that the Commissioners work the room and make sure the promotional materials are being handed out to the public. Vice Chair Taylor agreed and added that it was great for a first event.

VI. November Promotional Event

- a. Vice Chair Taylor stated that the following press organizations have been engaged as of November 8:
 - i. St. Clair County's Bellville News-Democrat
 - ii. East St. Louis Monitor
- b. The Run of show for November promotional event was walked through by Vice Chair Taylor and Coordinator Johnson then elements were combined including but not limited to:
 - i. Speakers
 - 1. Joseph A. Brown - Professor from SIU Carbondale
 - 2. Andrew Theising – Professor from SIU Edwardsville
 - 3. Tiffany Lee – Historian and Author
 - 4. LaToya Greenwood – Former State Representative
 - 5. Commissioner Williams – Professor
 - ii. Partner Host Organizations
 - iii. Logistics of the event:
 - 1. Q & A Flow throughout topic discussed time breakout
 - 2. QR Code graphics and handouts
 - 3. ADCRC speakers for introductions, conclusions, and context
 - 4. Room Configuration
 - iv. Community Fair/Vendors outside of event space
 - v. Refreshments and networking following panel discussion
 - vi. Time blocking the event sections
 - vii. 11 Focus Area Topics
 - 1. Chair Slaughter expressed concern over the parity of topics compared to the October Promotional event but recanted when he was reminded by Secretary Elion that parity is required for public hearings, but not promotional events.
 - viii. Security
 - ix. Volunteers
- c. Currently 26 registrants online and 6 rsvp's on Facebook.
- d. Commissioner Algee commended Vice Chair Taylor on her planning efforts and offered to help by email NAACP President Haley.
- e. ADCRC Commissioners volunteered to be responsible for separate aspects of the day of event coordination.



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VII. Organization Outreach

- a. Commissioner Mayers mentioned that he had discussed the work of the ADCRC with a reparations expert Nkechi Taifa whom Chair Slaughter has worked with and how could facilitate the expert attending an ADCRC meeting.
- b. Coordinator Johnson stated that emails from the public are starting to come in that are being forwarded to the ADCRC officers. There is a generic response being sent to citizens that messages have been received, but the ADCRC can craft a more specific response. An email folder will be added to the shared drive where the email communications will be stored.

VIII. Campaign Activity Definition

- a. Secretary Elion requested that for the next subcommittee meeting each assigned commissioner should be ready to provide some ideas for the high priority campaign activities and for the subcommittee to decide whether to move forward with those ideas and how.

IX. Public Comment

- a. There was no one present for public comment.

X. Adjournment

- **Adjournment – Motion to Adjourn made by Secretary Elion, seconded by Chair Slaughter, all voted in favor, motion passes – Meeting Adjourned at 12:02 p.m.**