

Restorative Justice Steering Committee
Monday, August 23, 2021
7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Members	Present	Absent
Patrick Wojahn, City Mayor		X
Monroe Dennis, Councilmember, District 2	X	
Maxine Gross, Chair	X	
Andrew Fellows, co-Chair	X	
Robert Thurston		X
Violetta Jones	X	
Dr. Joseph Richardson	X	
Staff and Others		
Tone Carter, Facilitator	X	
Kiasha Barber, Staff Liaison		X
David Thornton, Staff Liaison	X	
Bill Gardiner, Asst. City Manager		X
Teresa Way-Pezzuti, HR Director		X
Terry Schum, Director of Planning		X
Carleveva Thompson, Contract Secretary	X	

I. Call to Order

Mr. Fellows called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Old Business

II. Approval of August 9, 2021 meeting minutes

The Committee reviewed the August 9, 2021 meeting minutes.

Ms. Gross motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Ms. Jones. All members in favor, no opposed.

New Business

III. Staff Update/Discussion on the Restorative Process for other Municipalities

Mr. Thornton provided an update on other city municipalities that have developed committees in order to institute a process for restorative justice. A common theme among each municipality is that restorative justice is not about finding forgiveness. The following cities were reviewed by Mr. Thornton:

- Kansas City – Seeking land, economic development, and free educational opportunities for African-American families in need.
- St. Louis, Missouri – Seeking housing, economic and education assistance as well as free tuition for college.
- Tallahassee, Oklahoma – Plans to restore an old building into a welcome center, creating an outdoor community space and truth telling.
- St. Paul, Minnesota – Started a committee to discuss restorative justice and are still in the planning phase.
- Durham, NC – Committed 6 million dollars to a restorative justice program and are creating greener and more equitable infrastructures in African-American neighborhoods.
- Chicago, IL – Just started a committee for restorative justice.
- Evanston, GA – Currently paying residents for the acts that impacted them.
- Amhurst, MA – Starting a process to identify ongoing funding to help build a program for additional means of repairs to the environment, have public event activities, truth telling and reconciliation for past impacts.
- Charlotte, NC – Currently creating a proposal to pay impacted residents.

Ms. Gross inquired on the formulation of the committees with other municipalities. Mr. Thornton explained the formulation of the committees were through recommendations and city officials nominating members to the committee. The committees were composed with majority of the members African-American and were also individuals impacted. Mr. Thornton also explained that the commission included 7-8 members as well as subcommittees. Legislators and council members were active members on the committees.

Mr. Carter will draft a proposal and will place in the shared drive for the Committee to review. The Committee discussed the need for outreach and to find volunteers to provide truth telling. It was suggested to possibly have a research assistant to go out to residents that may feel uncomfortable speaking in public to obtain their stories. Ms. Gross suggested the use of the digital archive to obtain stories. Mr. Thornton suggested that a UMD student help the Committee with reviewing stories from the digital archive.

IV. Finalize the composition, size, and term of the Commission members

The Committee discussed for the Commission to have 15-21 members, which would include members for the Commission and the other members broken into sub-Committees.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

Ms. Gross motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second by Dr. Richardson. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.