

Reparations Commission

SUMMARY/ACTION MINUTES

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Location: Alameda County Training & Education Center
Oakland Room
125 – 12th Street, 4th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Debra Gore Mann at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members present:

1. Leo Bazile
2. Alan Dones
3. Debra Gore Mann
4. Phillip S. Gardiner
5. Shenita Hurskin
6. Carolyn Johnson
7. James Knowles
8. Larry McClendon
9. Brandon Sass
10. Shadrick Small

Excused: Artavia Berry, Jesse Burleson, Natasha Tripplett

III. Public Comment (items not listed on the agenda)

None.

IV. Approval of Minutes – Action Item

A motion was made by Commissioner Sass and seconded by Commissioner Bazile, to approve the minutes of December 11, 2024, as submitted.

Ayes: Bazile, Dones, Gardiner, Gore Mann, Johnson, Knowles, McClendon, Sass, Small

Noes:

Excused: Berry, Burleson, Tripplett

Abstain: Hurskin

Motion passed 9/0

V. SharePoint Training - Informational Item

Chair Gore-Mann, All Commissioners

Sandra Denardi, Alameda County Information Technology, led a training session to explain the basics of accessing SharePoint via email invitations, logging in with multi-factor authentication, and navigating the document library.

Training included:

- How to upload, delete, and restore documents
- The importance of saving the initial email with the SharePoint link
- Version history for document recovery
- Collaborative editing in Word Online

Sandra Dinardi will provide a video for further guidance and is available for assistance through email.

VI. **Retreat Agenda - Action Item** Chair Gore-Mann, All Commissioners

The commissioners discussed setting a clear work plan for the next 12 months, including deliverables, deadlines, and contingency plans based on available funding.

Priorities for the retreat include:

- Developing a Roadmap and Outlining milestones and timelines, including data analysis, community listening sessions, and recommendations.
- Budget Planning – reviewing the budget to align priorities and prepare a presentation for the Board of Supervisors, with scenarios for both funded and unfunded plans.
- Community Engagement – Hosting town halls and listening sessions in different parts of Alameda County to raise awareness, gather support, and involve residents in the discussion.
- Structuring the Commission’s work to organize committee schedules, define deliverables, and ensure clarity on available resources.
- Action-Oriented Approach – Move forward with community engagement regardless of budget constraints, prioritizing outreach and public discussions.

The Reparations Commission’s goal for the retreat is to finalize a strategy that includes a clear schedule for community meetings, a structured messaging plan, and a path forward whether funding is available or not. availability.

VII. **Public Policy Student – Informational Item** Chair Gore-Mann, All Commissioners

Deb Sica, County Librarian and Reparations Commission liaison, reported on the public policy student who has accepted to assist the Commission. The student is passionate and dedicated, from Oakland, who has experience working on the Black Joy Parade and a strong interest in place-based public policy. She is a Goldman School of Public Policy graduate student at Berkeley and was referred through connections with faculty. Her work, part of a capstone project, will focus on landscape analysis and will be completed within a compressed timeline, concluding by May.

VIII. **Update on Budget Request – Informational Item** Chair Gore-Mann, All Commissioners

Commissioner Gore Mann gave an update on the Commission’s budget request. A meeting was held on December 18th with the Chair, and the County Administrator’s Office to discuss budget submission requirements, although a detailed budget was previously submitted, certain elements were missing.

The focus remains on defining budget needs over a two-year period, ensuring a clear funding request, and securing an up-or-down decision from the County. The commission is waiting on a budget template, and it can be discussed at the upcoming retreat. Potential external funding sources and fundraising efforts are contingent on understanding the county's financial commitment.

The retreat may provide an opportunity to review and refine the budget framework if the template is received. In the interim, the Commission should continue planning, with a focus on community engagement as a top priority, ensuring preparedness for both funded and unfunded scenarios.

IX. Subcommittee Reports – Informational Item

All Commissioners

Infrastructure - marketing, communication, outreach/community engagement, legal/political
(Leo, Jesse, Larry, Lori, Artavia, Vickie, Shad)

Nothing to report.

Safety/criminal justice
(Leo, Jesse, James, Carolyn)

Commissioner Knowles reported on Proposition 36, which allows for sentence enhancements for various crimes and other legislative changes regarding the educational system and the vehicle code.

Economic - housing, small businesses
(Brandon, Alan, Artavia, James)

Commissioner Doanes noted that the Commission should inquire to the County about the release of the Disparity Study conducted by Dr. Eleanor Ramsey and Mason Tillman Associates. The study has been completed however it has not been released.

Health and Education
(Natasha, James, Shadrick, Shenita, Phillip)

Dr. Phillip Gardiner invited Commissioner members to a rally on Thursday, January 16th at the Ron V. Dellums Federal Courthouse at 12 noon, concerning the dismissal of a lawsuit regarding removing menthol from tobacco.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled as a retreat for January 25, 2025.

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