

Fulton County Reparations Task Force

Thursday, August 4, 2022 at 6pm

Zoom Meeting Recording:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/BtqQwsucMj8FyX38uwk_k8_gclAo57u7NvioRC9BYBvFuFPMZeKs_RHA5hIuNAS6.wmfIIFftaz7WiUHh

POST AGENDA MINUTES – RATIFIED

This document has been ratified or approved by the Fulton County Reparations Task Force and is not binding on the County or any officer.

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

****A QUORUM WAS PRESENT****

- **Present:** Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado; Marcus Coleman; JaNay Wilborn; Olivia Reneau
- **Absent:** South Fulton Mayor Khalid Kamau
- **Staff Present:** Fran Calhoun (External Affairs); Jasmine Campbell (External Affairs); John Wright (Library)

Opening Comments

- Fran Calhoun welcomed Elon Osby as a guest and potential future member of the task force.

Adoption of August 4, 2022 Agenda

- Marcus Coleman motioned to approve the August 4, 2022 agenda. JaNay Wilborn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of June 2, 2022 Minutes

- JaNay Wilborn motioned to approve the June 2, 2022 minutes. Marcus Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of July 14, 2022 Minutes

- JaNay Wilborn motioned to approve the July 14, 2022 minutes. Marcus Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Research Updates, Olivia Reneau and John Wright

- Bi-weekly research updates will be provided to all members.
- *Presentation attached*; highlights include:
 - Bagley/Macedonia Park History including previous assumptions. For example, Fulton County and the City of Atlanta ran sewage to white neighborhoods but complained about lack of sewage in Bagley Park which was one of the main justifications for clearing it out.

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- Next steps include review of relevant Board of Commissioners meeting minutes, evaluating property records, and a trip to Georgia Historical Society in Savannah for records of KKK influence in Fulton County.
- John Wright mentioned the direction of research is changing. They will review potential ties to KKK headquarters close to Bagley Park and the surrounding area since Fulton County Superior Court Judge and Solicitor General were known members.

Discussion

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Chair

- Offered research advice regarding KKK charter history in Georgia

Elon Osby, Guest

- Will provide additional Bagley Park resources to Olivia via email.

Fran Calhoun

- Will reach out to Olivia after meeting to share personal resources regarding relevant Buckhead area history.

The Honorable Amanza O.R. Walton-Desir, Parliament Member of Guyana

- Honored to speak to all members and interested in the work task force will complete. Believes the call for Reparations is similar worldwide and wanted to have a discussion with members regarding common heritage and reparations pursuit to avoid duplication of efforts.
- The following overviews were provided:
 - Slave Trade and Guyana slave history including European connections, monetary value of slaves, and compensation for slave labor.
 - Financing payments by United Kingdom loans to make restitution payments to slave landowners from 1833-2015. However, descendants of slaves have not been paid. Former slave owners in France were paid reparations for approximately 120 years as well.
- Guyana is member of political organization called [CARICOM](#): Reparations movement contemplates indigenous tribes that were diminished under slavery and all members work towards this goal.
- Guyana is becoming a global hotspot for economic development and the United States is currently investing. Reparations movement in USA has used CARICOM findings and this new exploration may lead to potential United Nations actions as well.
- Reviewed the CARICOM Reparations Commission (CRC) [Ten-point plan for Reparatory Justice](#).
- Encouraged task force members to connect to similar networks such as [The National African-American Reparations Commission](#).

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Discussion

Marcus Coleman, Vice-Chair

- Although task force is focused on Fulton County, general education to the public on the topic of reparations is necessary.
- Noticed parallels between Guyana and the United States when reviewing slavery history. Reparations movement is global on this topic and wants to work with others.
- Expressed gratitude to the Honorable Amanza O.R. Walton-Desir for attending meeting.
- Is there a monetary amount attached to reparations plan?
 - The Honorable Amanza O.R. Walton-Desir: Entire global effort is expected to be \$20 trillion dollars. Reparations must result in practical actions, not only monetary. Targeted focus of reparations includes different types of education, financial restitution, ancestral land return, mental health, and quality healthcare support system. Discussed Guyana land and offshore gas discoveries that are unique and could be used for this purpose.
- Provided overview of the links sent to all members of the [Return of Bruce's Beach: Dedication Ceremony & Celebration](#) he attended.
 - Fulton County Reparations Task Force was acknowledged: <https://youtu.be/-saH623mN5A>
 - Monitoring the family's decision on whether to seek additional reparations.

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Chair

- Majority of slaves brought to United States was done by the United Kingdom and this needs to be kept in mind during research. Asked questions regarding Guyana's relationship with the Queen.
 - The Honorable Amanza O.R. Walton-Desir: Guyana has diplomatic ties to United Kingdom but not necessarily to the Queen. Shackles of colonialism are starting to fall off in neighboring countries. Discussed differences between slavery labor and indentured servants from India that were paid and offered land after apprenticeships as an incentive. This type of inequality is still found in Guyana today.

Next Steps

Fran Calhoun on behalf of Derval Stewart, Fulton County Attorney's Office Representative

- Will provide password for Olivia to gain access to real estate records.
- The resolution on membership passed at the August 3, 2022 Board of Commissioners' meeting and he will send a fully signed copy to all members once processed. This will bring task force membership to 14.
- With passage of the resolution the new quorum, effective immediately, is a majority of the members appointed which is currently three.

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Fran Calhoun

- Provided electronic copy of “The National Reparations Declaration: A Qualitative and Quantitative Framework for Black Redress” by National Reparations Institute to all members that was shared by a Fulton County colleague, Rico Dollar.
- September 1 is next scheduled meeting, but this will be leading into Labor Day weekend.
 - Members agreed to reschedule the next meeting to September 8.

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.