

Fulton County Reparations Task Force
Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 6 p.m.

Zoom Recording:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/5_1AgKGuCGUTKNsyGtNqNEuRPuD41LPM2Zletqo4SJ1pQGXB7cEeWoE4hP9ym-Ak.14HWLtvvqsnqHFa

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 6:05 p.m.
- Chairwoman Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado informed non-members to place all questions in the chat to be answered at the end of the meeting.

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

- **Present:** Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado; Marcus Coleman; Shanti Vissa; Elon Osby
- **Absent:** South Fulton Mayor Khalid Kamau
- **Staff Present:** Jasmine Campbell (External Affairs); Olivia Reneau (Researcher)

Adoption of October 6, 2022 Agenda

- Marcus Coleman motioned to approve the October 6, 2022 agenda. Shanti Vissa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of September 8, 2022 Minutes

- Shanti Vissa motioned to approve the September 8, 2022 meeting minutes. Marcus Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. All members introduced themselves.
 - Jasmine Campbell updated members on the remaining vacancies.
2. Research Updates – Olivia Reneau

Olivia Reneau

- *Presentation attached*; highlights include:
 - New research has been obtained on Bagley Park since the presentation was submitted for sharing and will be forwarded to all members and placed on the webpage.
 - Staff at the Atlanta History Center are currently working to gather and display historical information and documents related to Bagley Park and will be used as a research partner moving forward.
 - Findings suggest that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners demonstrated neglect for the well-being of Bagley Park residents and prioritized the desires of the all-white, wealthy surrounding constituency.

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- Possible research leads taken from the establishing resolution include: Land-based compensation related to independence, scholarships, waiving of fees, and systemic initiatives to offset injustices.

Questions and Discussion

Chairwoman Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado

- What are the four principles mentioned in the presentation? They should be used as a framework for other research topics.
 - Olivia Reneau: Duty, Breach of Duty, Causation, and Injury
- Requested Olivia Reneau research related topics including but not limited to: Federal funding for public housing in the Bagley Park area; Taxes paid by residents and the denial of services by the County; Determine reasons why previous records are not available; Explore Atlanta Housing Authority records to determine migration habits of residents.

Vice-Chairman Marcus Coleman

- Will provide two additional research areas in the next few weeks.

Elon Osby

- Grandfather is William Bagley and parents also owned property in this area. The Atlanta History Center recently informed her that her grandfather was already living in this area and helped create the park.
- Current board member of the Buckhead Heritage Society. Discussed relevant cemetery lawsuit; the Buckhead Heritage Society is in the process of creating a master plan for the cemetery.
- Forsyth County started a [Forsyth Descendants Scholarship](#) fund; will forward contact information to Olivia Reneau.
- Bagley Park installation at Buckhead Library opened last Saturday and concludes on October 16, 2022.
- Invited all members to the Mount Olive Cemetery Wreath Laying Ceremony on Sunday, October 9, 2022 at Frankie Allen Park.

Shanti Vissa

- Do you have evidence of the coercive measures used by the County that was mentioned during the presentation?
 - Olivia Reneau: Two documents from the Board of Commissioners state that if they are not able to negotiate the purchase of these properties, they will condemn them. The definition of eminent domain abuse is not clear so this “sale under threat of condemnation” could be a historic example.

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3. Planning for Annual Report

Chairwoman Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado

- Not sure when the annual report will be due, but members should begin thinking of recommendations to include. Task force should also consider if they want to create a semi-annual report or end of the year report.
 - Vice-Chairman Marcus Coleman: Believes the report will be due during the first quarter of next year based on the establishing resolution date and first meeting date.
- When presented to the Board of Commissioners, it should be made clear that the task force will continue working and has not completed all possible research. All restitution proposals should be presented strategically.

Vice-Chairman Marcus Coleman

- Prepared for opposition when presenting the annual report but encourages members to consider recommendations to be included.
- As the only County Reparations Task Force in the country, suggested Chairwoman Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado send a letter to all candidates and incumbents for Governor, Senator, and Mayor of City of Atlanta as an introduction and request position on support of our historical research efforts. This letter will also help determine allies while the nation's eyes are on Georgia and Fulton County.
 - Chairwoman Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado agrees this is a good idea and should be pursued.
 - Jasmine Campbell suggested the letter be approved by the County Attorney's office first and will follow-up with Denval Stewart for next steps.

4. Attendance

Chairwoman Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado

- Aware that some Commissioners have not made appointments to the task force yet.
- Requested Jasmine Campbell send new members bylaws and establishing resolution.
- Attendance is important but one member has not been present and that District should be represented; what can be done?
 - Jasmine Campbell read "*Article III, Section 2. Attendance*" of the adopted Bylaws. Suggested Chair reach out to Denval Stewart to determine next steps and approve any letter to a Commissioner and Appointee to notify of this decision.

Public Comments/Questions – Found in Chat

Danielle S.

- What is the number and date of the bill?

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- Olivia Reneau: https://dlg.usg.edu/record/dlg_zlgl_190311198#text Georgia. General Assembly. "Acts and resolutions of the General Assembly of the state of Georgia adjourned session 1946 [volume 1]." 1946. October 6, 2022. http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/do:dlg_zlgl_190311198.
- Were there any white residents or renters in the Bagley Park area in 1937?
 - Olivia Reneau: No, there were no white renters or residents. However, there may have been white owners such as John S. Owens and William E. Arnaud.
 - Elon Osby: The 6 lots that my grandfather purchased in 1929 were purchased from William Arnaud.
- Can the public get a copy of those meeting minutes or can you give the date of those meeting minutes?
 - Olivia Reneau: Sept. 7, 1944, Commission on Roads and Revenue and BOC Meeting Minutes, Sept. 7, 1944
- So were their white renters/owners who were also displaced based on the 1946 law?
 - Olivia Reneau: Potentially due to these being blighted areas and segregation as a result of the 1946 redevelopment law.
- Atlanta History Center, correct?
 - Olivia Reneau: Yes, Atlanta History Center in Buckhead.
- You gave a percentage in your report about 30% black residents in 1940. Did I see that correctly?
 - Olivia Reneau: Percentage given in report was that 30% of individuals listed in the city directory were owner occupants. All occupants were black.
- This updated report needs to be put on the task force website. Open Records.
 - Jasmine Campbell: All presentations and all ratified meeting minutes will be placed on the website. It can also be provided if you would like to submit an Open Records Request.

Paul Hershey

- Why was it not part of the open law record Also this was a shanty town and no deeds
 - Olivia Reneau: City directory and city maps show that a number of these properties have similar footprints as Lookout Place across the creek which was an all-white community. The deed room under the Fulton County Courthouse contains multiple deeds showing transactions between individuals at Bagley Park. Any characterizations of Bagley Park as a shanty town are incorrect based on infrastructure and the residents being able to build a community. Neglect of this area is where deviations appear.
- The task force doesn't have a quorum you need 8 members sitting because you have vacant position the task force total members is 14
 - Jasmine Campbell: The task force does have a quorum. Section 2 of the Bylaws state that "A quorum of the Taskforce is required to transact business. A quorum is defined as a majority of the filled membership positions. Unless another number is specifically called for in these by-laws, passage of any regular motion

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or resolution shall be by majority vote of the members present at the meeting. In the event of a tie, an item will return at the next two meetings for consideration. If the item is not approved after consideration at the two subsequent meetings, the item shall fail and not return. As appropriate, electronic balloting may be allowed"

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.