

Fulton County Reparations Task Force

Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 6pm

Zoom Recording: https://zoom.us/rec/share/uTWvyejfdYZKunqVyd3z-DYg9tu94SLz9EiK7rmCw2yYWC7z83tSJ3Sijgx8I6C8.hUejL_bTbn67_3X

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.

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

- **Present:** Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado; Marcus Coleman; Shanti Vissa; Olivia Reneau
- **Absent:** South Fulton Mayor Khalid Kamau
- **Staff Present:** Fran Calhoun (External Affairs); Denval Stewart (County Attorney's Office)

Adoption of September 8, 2022 Agenda

- Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado motioned to approve the September 8, 2022 agenda. Shanti Vissa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of August 4, 2022 Minutes

- Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado motioned to approve the August 4, 2022 meeting minutes. Shanti Vissa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Research Updates – Olivia Reneau and John Wright

- *Presentation attached;* highlights include:
 - Bagley Park History Revisited: Residents were expelled and the park was created by a Fulton County Board of Commissioners vote in 1952.
 - Previous Unknowns: Water and sewer contamination concerns were legitimate. However, no County alternative to provide wastewater services offered to black residents at Bagley Park when compared to nearby neighborhoods with white residents.
 - Roadblocks: Missing or limited relevant public records from the Public Works department, Board of Health, Georgia Clerks' Authority, Office of Land Records, and the Office of the County Attorney.
 - Findings and New Unknowns will be researched as outlined in the next steps.
 - Looking to Wrap the Bagley Park examination around September 15, 2022. Potential recommendations include: 1) Renaming Frankie Allen Turner Park to Bagley Park. 2) Contact hereditary descendants of District 17, Lot 60 property owners.
 - Reparations Task Force will need to determine the next topic of study for internship.

Questions and Discussion

- Fran Calhoun confirmed meeting minutes and presentations are made available to the public online at <https://fultoncountyga.gov/reparationstaskforce>.
- Was the Garden Hills Women's Club private?

Fulton County Reparations Task Force

Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 6pm

Zoom Recording: https://zoom.us/rec/share/uTWvyejfdYZKunqVyd3z-DYg9tu94SLz9EiK7rmCw2yYWC7z83tSJ3Sijgx8I6C8.hUejL_bTbn67_3X

- Olivia Reneau: Yes, the club was a private entity, but they had major political influence that was recognized by County officials during decision making.
- Olivia Reneau stated proof of calculated neglect and unjust enrichment are outside of her internship scope since she is not a lawyer. The purpose of Bagley Park research is to establish if there was a deviation from precedent set by Fulton County to intervene and provide services in communities with similar wastewater issues. Currently, justification of Bagley Park actions remains unclear.
- Shanti Vissa would like more information on County property records.
 - Olivia Reneau: Storage of Fulton County deed and property records during this time period have not been found yet. It is a work in progress to obtain relevant land records. Requested assistance from members to achieve this research goal.
- Did other areas have sewage issues and are there records?
 - Olivia Reneau: Provided examples of sewer service petitions to the County in the following neighborhoods: Virginia Place, Block L of Garden Hills, and the intersection of Pharr Road which is the same road of Bagley Park.

New Business

Preparing for First Year Report to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Vice-Chairman Marcus Coleman

- Acknowledged new members during the last two meetings and resignation of JaNay Wilborn.
 - Fran Calhoun will verify all appointments to ensure a quorum when conducting business, but believes that only one new member was appointed. The Board of Commissioners recently voted to allow two appointments per district for this task force. If Fulton County residents would like to participate, they should contact their Commissioner.
- Does not believe there has been consistent participation from volunteers to allow this report to be completed on time. Suggested subcommittee meeting before the next monthly meeting with all new members soon to determine how to move forward and provide a review of all actions.

Chairwoman Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado

Agrees with Vice Chairman Marcus Coleman that more meetings will need to take place with new members during the next two months meetings to get everyone updated and begin discussion on the annual report. Offered personal residence for meeting venue.

- Fran Calhoun informed members that no official business can be conducted at social gatherings.
- Would like to find out if Commissioners will or will not make appointments and get an updated timeline. Hopeful that research presented by Olivia Reneau and John Wright will encourage engagement.

Fulton County Reparations Task Force

Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 6pm

Zoom Recording: https://zoom.us/rec/share/uTWvyejfdYZKunqVyd3z-DYg9tu94SLz9EiK7rmCw2yYWC7z83tSJ3Sijgx8I6C8.hUejL_bTbn67_3X

- When considering recommendations to the Board of Commissioners, Bagley Park is only one research area that can be used as an example of additional studies that can be performed later.
 - Vice-Chairman Marcus Coleman confirmed this is the only County level Reparations Task Force in the country.
- Reminded members to review the Establishing Resolution so they will know what the task force is allowed to do and the purpose.

Olivia Reneau

- Would like members to consider these potential research locations after Bagley Park based on discussions with John Wright: Reynoldstown, Johnstown, Plunkett Town, Linwood, Edgewood, Piney Grove, Thomasville, and Peoplestown.

Closing Comments

Vice-Chairman Marcus Coleman

- Enjoyed having more engagement and encourages new members and the public to review previous meetings as well as the establishing resolution to gain more information on the work being done.
- Will reach out to members to schedule subcommittee meetings, believes a bi-weekly schedule may be best moving forward.

Fran Calhoun and Denva Stewart

- Provided a general overview of appointments by the Board of Commissioners to County boards and task forces. Explained Reparations Task Force appointments are optional, not required, of each Commissioner. Therefore, members can continue work despite having vacancies.
- Reviewed recently amended Establishing Resolution changes to membership and quorum.
- Encouraged members to consider placing a public comment section on the agenda to allow questions to be asked and answered, if possible, by non-members during a certain time.
- Webinar format may be the best format for future meetings.

Chairwoman Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado

- How does the taskforce gain access to historic County codes and ordinances?
 - Denva Stewart: Contact Tonya Grier, Clerk to the Commission, for this information to determine how records are archived. Offered to reach out to Tonya Grier to determine what records are still available based on state requirements and will provide an update to Olivia and all members.

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.