

Reparations Commission

SUMMARY/ACTION MINUTES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

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:

Leo Bazile

Artavia Berry

Jesse Burleson

Lori Cox

Alan E. Dones

Debra Gore-Mann

Shenita Hurskin

Carolyn Johnson

James Knowles

Larry McClendon

Brandon T. Sass

Shadrick Small

Vickie Stephens

Natasha Tripplett

Excused: Phillip S. Gardiner

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

Tony Martin commented on the history of the slave trade and reparations. He proposed that the Jewish community should be approached for reparations due to their disproportionate wealth and historical involvement in the slave trade.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Vice Chair Cox, to approve the minutes for December 13, 2023, as submitted.

Ayes: Bazile, Burleson, Cox, Gore-Mann, Hurskin, Johnson, Knowles, McClendon, Sass, Small, Stephens, Tripplett

Noes:

Excused: Gardiner, Dones

Abstain: Berry

Motion approved 12/0

A motion was made by Vice Chair Cox and seconded by Commissioner Berry, to approve the minutes for January 10, 2024, as amended.

Ayes: Bazile, Berry, Burluson, Cox, Gore-Mann, Hurskin, Johnson, Knowles, McClendon, Sass, Small, Stephens, Tripplett

Noes:

Excused: Gardiner, Dones

Abstain:

Motion approved 13/0

V. Eric McDonnell, Chair San Francisco African American, Reparations Advisory Committee – Guest Speaker – Informational Item
[Attachment](#)

Eric McDonnell, Chair of the San Francisco African American Reparation Advisory Committee, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the San Francisco African American Reparation Advisory Committee.

The focus of the presentation outlined the work of the committee, including the creation of a charter, the composition of the committee, the timeline of activities, and the key recommendations made. The committee's approach included identifying historical and present harms, measuring financial impacts, and determining eligibility for reparations. The presentation emphasizes the importance of community engagement, multicultural coalition-building, legal and political strategies, public education, and self-care amidst emotional challenges.

The presentation concluded with lessons learned including:

- Develop a community engagement strategy to build a multi-cultural coalition of allies from the beginning of the reparations work.
- Understand that the reparations movement is both a political and legal battle, therefore strategies for both are necessary.
- Develop and implement public education and marketing strategies at the beginning and throughout the process.
- Practice ongoing self-care, with attention to your own mental health and well-being as you are exposed to the historical and current harms experienced by Black folks.
- Prepare to be celebrated and vilified.

Mr. McDonnell took questions from the Reparations Commission and referred members to the San Francisco Reparations website for additional information on the work of the San Francisco African American Reparation Advisory Committee <https://www.sfreparations.org/>

VI. Finalize Commission Subcommittees and Selection of Subcommittee Members – Action Item

Chair Gore-Mann announced the subcommittees proposed at the last meeting, including: 1) infrastructure, 2) Safety/Criminal Justice, 3) Economic 4) Health/Education and 5) Policy. The Chair invited the members to volunteer for subcommittees. Each subcommittee has to include seven (7) or less members. Subcommittee members will meet prior to the next Reparations Committee meeting and give a report.

Subcommittees

1. Infrastructure

- marketing/communications
- outreach/community engagement
- legal/political

Members: Bazile, Berry, Burluson, Cox, McClendon, Small, Stephens

2. Safety/Criminal Justice

Members: Bazile, Burleson, Johnson, Knowles

3. Economic

- housing
- small business

Members: Berry, Dones, Knowles, Sass,

4. Health/Education

Members: Hurskin, Knowles, Small, Triplett

A motion was made by Commissioner Stephens and seconded by Commissioner Dones, to accept the subcommittees and approve the subcommittee members set forth.

Ayes: Bazile, Berry, Burleson, Cox, Dones, Gore-Mann, Hurskin, Johnson, Knowles, McClendon, Sass, Small, Stephens, Triplett

Noes:

Excused: Gardiner

Abstain:

Motion approved 14/0

VII. Subcommittee Guidelines – Action Item

Chair Gore-Mann opened the floor for proposed subcommittees guidelines.

Proposed subcommittee guidelines

- Receive data
- Assessment of reparations work, including current/existing work
- Early Recommendations for subcommittee listening sessions, timeline, budget for consultants
- Creating a timeline for various phases of the Commissions' work
- Discuss policy framework
- Process – subcommittees to include minutes and a report out at the Commission meetings
- Chair Gore-Mann to be ad hoc on each subcommittee

A motion was made by Commissioner Sass and seconded by Commissioner Hurskin, to accept the subcommittee guidelines set forth.

Ayes: Bazile, Berry, Burleson, Cox, Dones, Gore-Mann, Hurskin, Johnson, Knowles, McClendon, Sass, Small, Stephens, Triplett

Noes:

Excused: Gardiner

Abstain:

Motion approved 14/0

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2024.

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