

Borough of Carlisle
Truth & Reconciliation Commission
May 27, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Mayor Scott, Deputy Mayor Shultz, Councilor Stuby and Fulham-Winston, Borough Manager Armstrong, Raff Donelson, Kendall Isaac, Emily Kelahan, Tristin Milazzo, Andrew Razanauskas, TaWanda Hunter-Stallworth, Dorene Wilbur and Joyce Stone.

Deputy Mayor Shultz called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He opened the meeting by recognizing the purpose of the meeting by remembering the anniversary of George Floyd and the need to press forward with social change in Carlisle. Deputy Mayor Shultz asked for a moment of silence to remember the recent death and murder of Kendal Cook and the attempted murder of Anthony White who were both members of the Carlisle black business community.

Each of the commission members shared their background information with the group. They then nominated and voted to appoint TaWanda Hunter as the Chair and Emily Kelahan as Co-chair for the commission.

**Scribe note: The minutes were amended to reflect that Emily Kelahan was appointed as Vice-chair to the Commission.*

Topics that were discussed:

- ✓ Kendall Isaac volunteered to prepare draft bylaws for the commission.
- ✓ The Commission will be subject to the Sunshine Law. The commission raised several questions regarding this topic. Deputy Mayor Shultz will provide a presentation on the Sunshine Laws at the next commission meeting.
- ✓ Emily Kelahan offered to work on a mission statement
- ✓ The commission agreed to meet bi-weekly in order to work on completing the mission statement and bylaws.

A thoughtful conversation ensued on how best to craft a meaningful mission statement that would reach all the citizens of Carlisle. After a review of a model mission statement, there was discussion regarding what substance should be included in the Borough's mission statement. The following items were suggestions to be included and be use as a guideline for drafting the mission statement:

- ✓ An end goal of what the Commission is committed to accomplishing.
- ✓ Part of the mission's statement should follow the resolution that stated gathering information for the purpose of making recommendations to Council regarding the continuation of the Commission.
- ✓ Remembering that the Commission's charge is to understand, reflect and report on the recommendations on how to move forward and how to improve.
- ✓ Action oriented, implement and sustain

The question was raised regarding the completion of a mission statement, bylaws and action plan by July 24th and how to balance the commission's time for these tasks.

Councilor Stuby clarified that the vision for an action plan was more specific than a mission statement. The action plan would be framed from the vision and mission statement as a guide to follow over the

course of the next year. It would be similar to the bylaws and the mission statement and is open to the interpretation of the commission.

The commission concluded that creating a list of “Truth and Reconciliation Values” instead of a vision statement was more valuable. This approach would provide an evolving list of meaningful terminology that will demonstrate the values that are important to the commission and will allow more time to dive into the action plan. The commission began a working list of words that they will expand upon in upcoming meetings.

The next Truth and Reconciliation meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:00 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Stone

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