

### **Minutes, TRC meeting #3, June 21, 2021 (Zoom)**

Members present:

Raff Doneslon, Kendall Isaac, Emily Kelahan (co-chair), Tristan Milazzo, Andrew Razanauskas, TaWanda Stallworth (co-chair) and Doreen Wilbur

Also present:

Sean Shultz, Carlisle Borough Council Vice President  
Jeff Stuby, Carlisle Borough Council Member  
Fred Baldwin, TRC Secretary

Ms. Stallworth called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. A roll call showed all members present.

Minutes of the June 7 meeting were approved. Motion by Mr. Isaac, seconded by Mr. Razanauskas.

Mr. Donelson reported on a June 10 meeting with the League of Women Voters. League members expressed strong interest in the TRC work and asked, "How can we help?"

Ms. Stallworth reported on a recent meeting with the Carlisle Area School Board. At that meeting she expressed concern over a proposed policy statement that appeared likely to limit the ability of teachers to respond to student questions related to racial discrimination. The CASD board approved an amended statement that removed the most problematic passages. Ms. Stallworth said that Paula Bussard, school board president, would like to continue a dialogue with the TRC, possibly including educational sessions. Ms. Wilbur expressed appreciation for Ms. Stallworth's willingness to speak up on a current issue.

Ms. Kelahan commented that the TRC, while primarily charged with identifying past instances of racial discrimination, should not hesitate to address current concerns. She invited TRC members to suggest subject-matter priorities for TRC work. Suggestions included housing, the criminal justice system (with separate attention to how the system handles adults and juveniles), education, business treatment of minorities, and a range of socio-economic issues.

Ms. Kelahan noted that the TRC may wish to develop a list of potential partners. Other comments included a suggestion to emphasize areas directly subject to Borough Council action, while recognizing that the Borough Council may often be able to exert informal influence over decisions by other agencies or groups.

TRC members briefly discussed draft by-laws developed by Mr. Isaac, who noted that his draft was based on by-laws of the Human Relations Commission. Members noted that the proposed by-laws make provision for both formal committee and informal working groups. There was some discussion of the intended scope of a reference to "indigenous" people.

Ms. Stallworth agreed to bring the draft by-laws and any proposed revisions forward for a vote at the next TRC meeting.

It was noted that a Franklin County group called Racial Reconciliation has a Facebook page. It was suggested that the TRC should make contacts with similar groups, especially those in this area, and develop a Facebook page of its own.

Members next resumed consideration of priorities, focusing on a draft matrix developed by Ms. Kelahan. Its column headers were as follows:

- Topic (e.g., law enforcement)
- TRC member(s) in lead roles
- Community partners
- Type(s) of action expected (truth-telling, dialogue, and/or policy recommendations)

Proposed subject areas included law enforcement (adult, juvenile); education; various socio-economic issues; various social and cultural patters. It was agreed to flesh out details in working groups. Initial volunteers for initial lead roles were Wilbur (education), Razanauskas (socio-economic/ social-cultural), and Isaac (social-cultural).

Ms. Kelahan shared the following draft of a TRC mission statement, intentionally brief .

*Our Mission*

- To improve racial justice and racial equity by meeting our community where it is and engaging it in truth telling and reconciliation.*
- To examine existing policies as well as past and present practices and structures that contribute to systemic racism.*
- To develop guidance for Borough officials about next steps for making our community more just and equitable through accountability and transformative change.*

Members agreed to bring a Mission Statement to a vote at the next meeting.

Ms. Stallworth invited public comments and received none.

Ms. Stallworth noted that Ms. Wilbur has developed a template for a headshot and bio of TRC members, to be posted on the Borough's web page. To encourage general consistency in length and style, it was agreed to post bios and photos on Google Docs for review by all TRC members before posting any pictures or text on the Borough web page.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.