

Minutes, TRC meeting #5, Carlisle Borough Hall, July 19, 2021

Co-chair TaWanda Stallworth called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Six members were present: Raff Donelson, Kendall Isaac, Andrew Razanauskas, Dorene Wilbur, Emily Kelahan (co-chair), and TaWanda Stallworth (co-chair). One member absent: Tristan Milazzo. Deputy Mayor Sean Shultz and Council Member Jeff Stuby participated via Zoom. Also present were Stephanie Taylor, Carlisle Borough Public Communication Coordinator, and Fred Baldwin, TRC Secretary.

Minutes of the TRC's meeting of July 6 were approved by a unanimous voice vote. Motion to approve by Mr. Razanauskas, seconded by Ms. Wilbur.

Ms. Stallworth indicated that she wished to add an "Item C," pertaining to the Carlisle Indian School, to the previously circulated agenda. Without objection, that item was added.

At the request of the chair, Mr. Donelson opened a discussion of the proposed Action Plan, based on a draft previously provided to TRC members. The discussion that followed – and suggested edits -- dealt initially with matters of clarity. At one point Mr. Stuby commented that the plan, once presented to Council, would in all likelihood become the focus of a public meeting – advertised in advance and providing opportunity for additional comments by both Council members and the public. That process might or might not lead to re-thinking and re-writing some points.

Subsequent discussion focused on possible recommendations pertaining to the Carlisle Borough crest, which includes various emblems symbolic of the area's history. Commission members considered whether the action plan should include a reference to the crest. Relating to the Indian School item added to the agenda, members also discussed whether the TRC should have been involved in a repatriation ceremony honoring several indigenous American children whose remains are being returned to their native tribes. In response to a question, Mr. Shultz indicated that, while Council was aware of the event, the low-key way it was handled by the Army suggested a deliberate attempt to ensure that it would be appropriately solemn.

With respect to all suggested action plan changes, the consensus was to keep the language relatively broad while adding "other actions as may be requested by Council." Mr. Stuby indicated that some of these issues could be considered at a Council workshop. He later also mentioned that Borough Council had already begun to consider changes in the Borough crest and how to decide on what those changes might be.

After thanking Mr. Donelson for his work in drafting the action plan, Ms. Stallworth invited public comments, including any from individuals attending via Zoom. There were no comments.

Commission members were reminded of the value of attendance at Unity Day (Saturday, July 24, at Hope Station). All present indicated that they could attend at least part of that event.

Commission members also considered whether their online biographical profiles should be written in the first person or the third person. The decision was in favor of the third person for strictly biographical information, with first-person for personal statements on why members chose to volunteer for TRC service.

Ms. Kelahan asked for a vote on the Action Plan. Commission members voted unanimously to approve the plan. Motion to approve by Mr. Isaacs, seconded by Mr. Razanauskas.

It was also decided that the next TRC meeting should be held on August 9 at 6:00 pm.

Ms. Stallworth adjourned the meeting at 7:09 pm.