

**Borough of Carlisle
Truth & Reconciliation Commission
November 8, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

Members present: Emily Kelahan (co-chair), TaWanda Hunter-Stallworth (co-chair), Raff Donelson, Andrew Razanauskas, Dorene Wilbur, and Lou Werderbach (zoom).

Members absent: Tristan Milazzo

Also present: Borough Manager Susan Armstrong, Stephanie Taylor and Nicole Meals

Ms. Hunter-Stallworth called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Ms. Hunter-Stallworth took a moment to welcome Lou Werderbach to the commission.

Minutes from the October 11, 2021 meeting were approved. Motion by Mr. Razanauskas, seconded by Ms. Wilbur.

Topics that were discussed:

✓ Research Working Group

Ms. Kelahan provided an overview of 4 main points the group discussed.

1. Provisionally approved a template for the final report. Ms. Milazzo shared a final report that she utilized for another project she had worked on. It will be adjusted to adapt for the final report that is required of the TRC.
2. Discuss data collection & transparency in the Borough. The group identified questions and departments within the Borough that they would like to have discussions with. Mr. Donelson questioned if some issues may require an executive session be called. Borough Manger Armstrong shared that litigation, potential or active, and matters of real estate are generally discussed in executive session. The commission has asked for more clarity regarding the use of executive session for the information that they may be requesting.
3. Begin to discuss peer aspirant group criteria of cities to compare with. Ms. Hunter-Stallworth suggested using the Borough's recent All American City Award as a good source of similar cities. Ms. Taylor will provide contact information and the criteria of the award to this group.
4. Begin to discuss case study of business development in the Borough. Discussion of how to restore trust for historically disenfranchised groups.

✓ Community Engagement Working Group

Mr. Razanauskas asked that the TRC consider making a formal statement of support about the upcoming showing of *Home from School: the Children of Carlisle* at the Carlisle Theater on November 18. The event is free.

Mr. Razanauskas outlined potential events that the TRC could host. The first event has a working title of “Thinking about Race Thursday” and would be held December 9th at Borough Hall from 6-7pm. A second event would mark the one year anniversary of the town hall meeting and provide an update to the community on January 15th. A third event could possibly be a potential mixer of community members and members of all borough commissions and authorities or an open forum drop in session on February 7th.

There was much discussion in regards to what these open forums would be accomplishing, the collection of anecdotal data and its relevance to the TRC, how to address issues, and the use of race in the working title. The TRC set forth the expectation that a press release be written and shared via email prior to public release. This press release will use race in the title, and will set forth expectations and parameters as to what the TRC expects to be able to accomplish with any information they gather during these forums. The three dates will be included in the press release with the expectation that they will be held at Borough Hall.

✓ New Business

Ms. Hunter-Stallworth announced all TRC members should now have a borough email address and items should be posted to the shared drive.

Ms. Kelahan invited public comments.

Ms. Wanda Hunter of 234 Walnut Bottom Road, invited all to attend a virtual event on December 7th from 7-8:30 – Not in Our Town Carlisle presents “What Can We Do About Hate? Bias Incidents and Hate Crimes - Community Response and Prevention” featuring former civil rights investigator Ann Van Dyke and local reps from the Carlisle Human Relations Council (CHRC) and the Greater Carlisle Community Responders Network (CRN). She will be sending flyers to the TRC members.

The next Truth and Reconciliation Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 13, 2021 at 6:00 pm in Borough Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Meals

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