

**Borough of Carlisle
Truth & Reconciliation Commission
March 14, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

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

Also present: Mayor Shultz, Stephanie Taylor and Nicole Meals

Ms. Kelahan called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Approval of the minutes from February 14, 2022 were approved. Motion by Mr. Donelson, seconded by Mr. Werderbach.

Topics that were discussed:

✓ Research Working Group

Ms. Kelahan reported that the group had met twice since the last meeting. The main area of focus has been narrowing down how to organize the recommendations that may be made in the final report. It is proposed having 4 -5 topic areas which will have two to three recommendations made to Council. Current proposals for topic areas or “baskets” are law enforcement, commerce, housing, and arts/culture. These baskets will be linked or woven together with the “thread” of education, community outreach and possibly public health. The group is proposing setting monthly goals for each topic.

The group discussed whether or not the TRC should continue holding Thinking about Race Thursday. This primarily would be to help alleviate any pressure and time constraints that have been placed on the TRC. Consensus was to continue holding these events and continue gaining the trust and input of the community.

Mr. Donelson reported that Ms. Colleen Murphy would not be able to give a public address until May or June. She is willing to do a zoom conference with the TRC earlier than that. After discussion, it was decided that Mr. Donelson will send Ms. Murphy the future dates of Thinking about Race Thursday events and see what her schedule would allow.

✓ Community Engagement Working Group

Ms. Wilbur attended the Black Cultural Festival and represented the TRC. She felt it was a very good experience. The TRC has a table sign now for future events.

The group discussed ways to better engage the community at listening events. Some suggestions were to provide appetizers or food, create more dialogue with churches, and to host events targeting youth. Ms. Wilbur reported on her contact with youth and shared ideas and perceptions the youth had in regards to diversity and inclusion.

Ms. Hunter-Stallworth was able to connect with Bridge Builders and is waiting to hear back.

✓ Funding

Mayor Shultz will contact Borough Manager Armstrong requesting that she email the TRC on the process to request funds.

Ms. Hunter-Stallworth and Mr. Razanauskas will meet prior to the next meeting to construct a preliminary draft budget format to present to the full TRC for consideration.

✓ Equity Leaders

Ms. Hunter-Stallworth reported there has been no update from Dr. Marcellus Taylor, Director of Health Equity, from the Partnership for Better Health.

✓ Realignment of Working Groups

There was much discussion concerning realigning the working groups. All were in favor of participating in a weekend retreat to further discuss how this will be accomplished.

Ms. Kelahan stressed that she would like each TRC member to keep a personal list in regards to general recommendations that they feel should be made, but that may not be a recommendation that Borough Council can act on. These may be used as an appendix to the final report.

✓ Updates from Borough Council/Staff

Council has discussed how to replace the Borough crest. The community will be asked for input regarding design and meaning. The TRC may be asked to participate in this endeavor.

Mayor Shultz reported that he will be attending the Mayors Innovation Project Conference and looks forward to bringing back information to share with the committee.

Ms. Hunter-Stallworth invited public comments. There was no public comment.

The next Truth and Reconciliation Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 11, 2022 at 6:00 pm in Borough Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Meals

Nicole Meals