



Beyond Apology Commission

Special Meeting | February 28, 2025 | 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: TheRese Anderson Aduni, Phil Armstrong, Jacqueline Evans, Vanessa Hall-Harper, Mattece Mason, Keith Mayes, D'Marria Monday, Greg Taylor, Taylor West, Kristi Williams, Corinice Wilson

Commissioners Absent: Krystal Reyes, Damali Wilson

City of Tulsa Staff Present: Lexi Bollis, Jack Blair

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairwoman Williams called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to approve the January meeting minutes.
 - i. Councilor Hall-Harper made a motion, Commissioner Monday seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 11, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, January meeting minutes approved.

III. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairwoman Williams thanked everyone for the work and progress put into releasing the housing program recommendations. Big step forward. Next step is hearing back from Mayor Nichols, should have a formal response in time for the March meeting.
- b. Going to start thinking about other areas of focus, housing is just the beginning. Reached out to Garry Clark, CEO of PartnerTulsa, to explore collaboration on economic development initiatives. Hope he can attend a future meeting, awaiting a response.
- c. Beyond Apology Commission Landing Page – Chairwoman Williams did some work with the City's communications team to improve visibility, clarity, and transparency.
- d. Will begin working on community engagement, hosting meetings to go deeper into the recommendations with the public. Would like to start planning in late March or early April, could have meetings at Vernon AME. Keep community informed and be transparent in our work, so these meetings are vital.
 - i. Vice Chair Wilson: Will there be planning before this point before then to identify next priorities?
 - 1. Chairwoman Williams: Yes, about to discuss that.
- e. The commission will start to build out committees. These committees will do research, planning, and execution and monthly commission meetings will report out. Each committee will have a chair. Committees are open to the public to join, can reach out to individuals you want to join, want to have people who are passionate and knowledgeable.

Chairwoman Williams will provide recommendations of individuals to serve on the committees. Committees should meet at least once a month, do not need to be open to the public as long as less than a quorum of commissioners are present.

- i. Chairwoman Williams proposed the following standing committees, based on recommendations from the Beyond Apology Report:
 1. Policy & legislation
 2. Housing & land justice
 3. Economic development & business restoration
 4. Education & historical truth
 5. Public health & community wellness
- ii. Commissioners discussed proposed committees' focuses and where overlaps occur between committees.
- iii. Chairwoman Williams noted this is an opportunity to collaborate with individuals who are part of Justice for Greenwood.
 1. Commissioner Mayes shared hesitancy to connect with Justice for Greenwood as an entity but could work to connect with individuals. May want to wait until we are further down the road. Vice Chair Wilson agrees, committees should begin their work and if an opportunity for collaboration arises, can collaborate. Committees will need to look holistically at what programs and initiatives are already in place.
 2. Robust discussion ensued on how to invite partners for collaboration in the future. Important to continue working towards a collaborative win for the community and be mindful of the legacy this group is building.
- f. Many reparations commissions across the country have an Ancestral Acknowledgement at the start of their meetings. Can take inspiration from other commissions. Asked Commissioners Aduni and Monday to work together to create this.
 - i. Requested to include specific individuals who have been doing this work before us, whether alive or not.

IV. Review and Vote: Commission Bylaws

- a. Chairwoman Williams will send Lexi further edits on the standing committees to incorporate in a future draft of the bylaws.
- b. Commission Discussion:
 - i. Commissioner Armstrong: Article IX states we will have quarterly community meetings, how strict will that be?
 1. Chairwoman: Can be flexible, don't need to rush to plan an event in the first quarter.
 - ii. Commissioner Taylor noted how the standing committees match the areas of focus in Article III.
 - iii. Vice Chair Wilson: How will we make decisions on who chairs each committee?
 1. Chairwoman Williams: A commissioner must chair a committee.
 - iv. Commissioner Monday: Can we serve on more than one committee?
 1. Chairwoman Williams: Yes, but can only chair one committee.
 2. Commissioner Mayes recommended each commissioner can list their top three preferences for committees.

- v. Commissioner Mason prompted a discussion about virtual participation in meetings. Lexi shared context regarding the Open Meetings Act, and how this commission has the flexibility to operate because of being established by Executive Order instead of City Ordinance. Councilor Hall-Harper feels it does not compromise transparency to accommodate virtual participation and suggested getting language from legal for how that should be included in the bylaws. Want virtual presence to count as present.
- vi. Commissioner Monday prompted a question about the conflict of interest, and Attorney Blair and Council Hall-Harper helped clarify what conflicts may look like. Commissioner Mason recommended having a form for commissioners to list potential conflicts of interest as they arise.

V. Old Business – no old business

VI. New Business

- a. Discussion: Broadcasting Meetings on TGOV
 - i. Chairwoman Williams thinks it is important to broadcast on TGOV for transparency and accessibility to the public. Recordings will be archived for future reference and historical record.
 - 1. Commissioner Mason noted disappointment in not having the press conference recorded. Lexi shared that she has reached out to reporters to see if we can find a recording and will share as soon as she has it. It important to have a recording, the City should have prioritized recording the press conference and be more attentive. Also a protective measure for the commissioners.
 - a. Commissioner Monday: It's important for us to lean into each other and not be deterred by the naysayers.
 - 2. Commissioner Mayes agrees with broadcasting and recording.
 - ii. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion for Beyond Apology Commission meetings to be broadcast and archived on TGOV.
 - 1. Commissioner Monday motioned, Commissioner West seconded.
 - a. Aye: 11, Nay: 0
 - 2. Motion carried, meetings will be broadcast and archived on TGOV.

VII. Announcements / Public Comments – none

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Vice Chair Wilson made a motion, Commissioner Monday seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 11
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 2:24 pm.