



Beyond Apology Commission

Regular Meeting | March 21, 2025 | 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: TheRese Anderson Aduni, Jacqueline Evans, Mattece Mason, Keith Mayes, D'Marria Monday, Deputy Mayor Krystal Reyes, Kristi Williams, Corinice Wilson, Damali Wilson

Commissioners Present Virtually: Phil Armstrong, Greg Taylor, Taylor West

Commissioners Absent: Councilor Hall-Harper

City of Tulsa Staff Present: Lexi Bollis, Jack Blair, Sarah Davis, Mayor Monroe Nichols, Ashtyn Reaugh, James Wagner, Dana Walton

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairwoman Williams called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to approve the February meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Wilson made a motion, Commissioner Aduni seconded.
 1. Aye: 9, Nay: 0
 - a. Commissioners Armstrong, Monday, and West were not yet present in the meeting.
 - ii. Motion carried, February meeting minutes approved.

III. Discussion with Mayor Nichols Regarding Housing Reparations Program Recommendations

- a. Chairwoman Williams turned the meeting over to Mayor Monroe Nichols.
- b. Mayor Nichols began by reflecting on the National Symposium for Reparations in Evanston—which he attended with several commissioners two days after he took office—as well as his recent travel to Selma, Alabama for the anniversary of Bloody Sunday. Excited to announce June 1st as Tulsa Race Massacre Observance Day last week.
- c. On April 6, Mayor Nichols will present his proposal to the community. More time is needed to work with City Council and others to solidify a proposal that can be enacted.
 - i. Committed to the commission that they will have access to the proposal prior to it becoming public on April 6.
 - ii. Working to ensure it does not water down any recommendations from the commission.

- d. Mayor Nichols shared that he is pleased by the recommendations from this commission. Noted that recommendations often get shelved and never come to fruition, and he is committed that will not happen with these recommendations.
- e. Commission Discussion:
 - i. Commissioner Mayes shared thanks for coming to this meeting and involving commissioners in the process. Also extended gratitude to Deputy Mayor Reyes.
 - 1. Echoed by Commissioner Mason.
 - ii. Chairwoman Williams thanked Mayor Nichols for not putting these recommendations on a shelf. Expressed gratitude for making it to this moment, from a process started many years ago.
 - iii. Chairwoman Williams: How much money will be allocated?
 - 1. Mayor Nichols: Can't share at this time.
 - iv. Commissioner Armstrong: Encountered many different interpretations of what happened in the Race Massacre through the Centennial Commission. This is a courageous step in a sensitive political environment. Taking into account Justice for Greenwood's public proposal. How do we avoid a perception that there are two opposing proposals/sides to how to move forward?
 - 1. Mayor Nichols: Met with the Deep Greenwood Foundation and Justice for Greenwood in addition to reviewing BAC's recommendations. Leadership from the City is important to determine a path forward. What often happens is if the City doesn't have long-term commitment that causes competition for attention amongst different groups. Those who are Race Massacre descendants should be leading conversations. Won't play into a culture of picking one group's recommendations over another. Need to focus on unity over a perception of winners and losers.
 - 2. Commissioner Aduni: There are descendants on this commission, draw inspiration from ancestral energy. Sitting here was their dream, our recommendations come from them.
 - v. Vice Chair Corinice Wilson: What can this commission do to partner with your office between now and April 6? Prefer a dialogue over being informed on what will happen.
 - 1. Mayor Nichols: Implementation will be the stage when the commission can be most helpful. The April 6 announcement will include a framework and commitment to invest in a number of things. Will be great to have one or two commissioners to join internal team at the City. Will try to have a meeting with stakeholders (including BAC) prior to April 6.
 - vi. Commissioner Damali Wilson: What is the process to have commissioner join your internal team working on this?
 - 1. Mayor Nichols: That's for the commission to decide, would be helpful to have someone to be additionally informed on the internal discussions.
 - vii. Mayor Nichols noted that of the different groups he's met with, the recommendations are not far off from one another. More alignment than divergence.

viii. Commissioner Mason: Favor a unified approach. How many organizations are commissioned by the City to volunteer for this work? Is it going to diminish the financial impact of what BAC is able to allocate?

1. Mayor Nichols: Short answer is no. Financial position the City is in is that more has been spent than taking in, going to be cutting budget. Establishing a framework of how programs will be resourced, and one will not come at the expense of another.
2. Commissioner Mason: Concerned about the difference between the collaborative relationship BAC has with the City versus cacophonous relationship other entities have with the City. Revitalizing a part of town will positively impact the whole city. Want to take our time and ensure this commission's efforts are not diminished by others' personal goals. Saw in the Evanston conference that the eyes of the country are on Tulsa. BAC has set a standard and it shouldn't be tainted by outside personal interest. Anyone fighting for repair is a blessing.
3. Mayor Nichols: Point well taken, unconcerned with personalities. BAC being a function of the City, there is a level of prestige, and there are aspects of other ideas that are outside of the scope of what BAC has focused on up to this point. Want to take the opportunity to take some big steps while there is time. The Race Massacre has made Tulsa notable, how we respond to it will make this city special. Don't want anyone feeling they have lost, want everyone to see progress is being made. Have to think of the future beyond 2025 and work to build a sustainable framework.

ix. Commissioner Monday thanked Mayor Nichols for his leadership and commitment. It is a huge undertaking, and important to honor the ancestors. Recognized Chairwoman Williams, Greg Robinson, and Councilor Hall-Harper for their ongoing commitment. No longer just focused on the trauma, but on healing.

f. Mayor Nichols wrapped up by reflecting on that while all authorities, boards, and commissions are important at the City, not all are as personal or groundbreaking as this one is.

i. Read the DOJ report and particularly focused on the section about the Mayor at the time. At best, the mayor was absent, at worst they directed violent acts. Will not be absent or a bystander. Credit to Mayor Bynum for establishing the commission.

ii. Offered to have further discussions.

g. Chairwoman Williams thanked Mayor Nichols for coming to the meeting.

IV. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairwoman Williams reflected that she would like to hold off on establishing committees until Mayor Nichols releases his proposal on April 6.
- b. Chairwoman Williams recognized Commissioners Aduni and Monday for creating an Ancestral Acknowledgement, will email to the commission.

V. Old Business – no old business

VI. New Business

- a. Chairwoman Williams will work with Mayor Nichols, Deputy Mayor Reyes, and Lexi about integrating with the Mayor's Office.

VII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Fair Housing event on April 1. Lexi will email a flyer.
- b. April 25 – 27 is the next round of Community Genealogy Workshops. Will send registration link to Lexi once live.
- c. Public Comments
 - i. GTAAAC Commissioner Maybelle Wallace asked how you make it on the descendants list. Chairwoman Williams noted that BAC is not at that phase yet, but as soon as we are at the implementation stage she will reach out. Will be an application process.
 - ii. Executive Director of 1256 Movement: Support individuals with making repairs to their homes to preserve property values. As new folks move here and new housing is built, want to ensure those who have lived here also benefit from the growth. Offered organization as a resource.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Commissioner Aduni made a motion, Commissioner Monday seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 12
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 2:03 pm.