



## **Beyond Apology Commission**

Regular Meeting | June 20, 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, Vanessa Hall-Harper, Mattece Mason, D'Marria Monday, Krystal Reyes, Taylor West, Kristi Williams, Corinice Wilson, Damali Wilson

Commissioners Absent: Phil Armstrong, Keith Mayes, Greg Taylor

City of Tulsa Staff Present: Lexi Bollis, Dion'trae Hayes

#### **I. Call to Order**

- a. Chairwoman Williams called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm.

#### **II. Ancestral Acknowledgement**

- a. Commissioner Aduni led the Ancestral Acknowledgement.

#### **III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to approve the May meeting minutes.
  - i. Commissioner Damali Wilson made a motion, Commissioner Mason seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, May meeting minutes approved.

#### **IV. Chair / Vice Chair Report**

- a. Chairwoman Williams reflected on the Mayor's Road to Repair announcement on June 1, a significant step toward reparative justice on behalf of City of Tulsa. Establishes the Greenwood Trust and sets a fundraising goal of \$105 million between now and June 1, 2026. The commission's themes and Road to Repair's outlined programs align with the community recommendations.
  - i. Councilor Hall-Harper shared that Mayor Nichols told her the Greenwood Trust oversight will have representation from the Beyond Apology Commission, Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission, Justice for Greenwood, and other organizations that have a stake in this work.
- b. Engagement in the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Mass Graves Investigation
  - i. Chairwoman Williams & Councilor Hall-Harper had been part of the Mass Graves Oversight Committee; however, over time the committee was dissolved. Want to see that committee reconvened, with BAC having a seat at the table. Public trust was lost.



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1. Commissioner Mason noted that as revelations were being made, communication stopped, and this led to loss of trust.
2. Councilor Hall-Harper shared that the previous mayoral administration stopped responding to communications asking about the process. The new mayoral administration, with Brentom Todd, is committed to restarting the oversight committee.
- ii. Community engagement meetings – would like to schedule one in July, either the 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>. Want community to be part of how BAC announces committees and have an opportunity to be part of the work.
  1. Vice Chair Wilson asked for clarification of how committee members will be selected. Previously discussed that the commission will intentionally invite members instead of extending an open call to anyone to join.
    - a. Chairwoman Williams shared she will personally invite everyone who participated in all four Beyond Apology community meetings.
    - b. Commissioner Mason helped clarify that there will be intentional invitations and community members can submit their names; however, they may not be added to a committee.
  2. Commissioner Monday asked how committees are being formed and the topics that are covered. Chairwoman Williams will send an email asking commissioners which committee they would like to serve on. The committees will come from the eight community topics.
  3. Chairwoman Williams put forward the question of July 22<sup>nd</sup> vs 29<sup>th</sup>. Came to consensus for the 22<sup>nd</sup>.
    - a. Commissioner West asked if virtual is an option, others shared that will not be an option.
  4. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to hold the community engagement meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm.
    - a. Commissioner Mason made a motion, Commissioner Damali Wilson seconded.
      - i. Aye: 10
    - b. Motion carried, community engagement meeting will be on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and 6 pm.
- iii. Chairwoman Williams raised she wants BAC to have a social media presence, produce videos. Clips of community meetings/events. Need an avenue for BAC to have a presence and share about the work they're doing.
  1. Deputy Mayor Reyes offered to set up a meeting with the City's communications team to discuss short- and long-term strategies.

## **V. Old Business**

- a. Recap and Discussion of Mayor Monroe Nichols's Road to Repair Announcement – covered in Chair's report



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- b. Update on Tangible Reparations Subcommittee Work
  - i. Chairwoman Williams proposes having eight subcommittees, one aligned to each theme from the Beyond Apology Report so it is clear to the community that the recommendations they made are being carried out.
    - 1. Education, systems change, financial compensation, community/economic development, housing, land, health and wellness, cultural identity
  - ii. Chairwoman Williams will email commissioners for committee signups.
  - iii. Vice Chair Wilson stressed the importance of planning in advance before going in front of community, Chairwoman Williams confirmed there will be intentional conversations and planning leading up to the community meeting.
- c. Update on 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Mass Graves Investigation – covered in Chair's report
- d. Public Engagement (Community Sessions) – covered in Chair's report

#### **VI. New Business**

- a. Councilwoman Hall-Harper passed around a letter from herself to District 1 residents voicing issues with PartnerTulsa's role in the Greenwood Legacy CDC, especially her strong concern of the CDC excluding community.
  - i. Commissioner Monday noted that PartnerTulsa is often led by people who come from outside of Tulsa.
  - ii. Vice Chair Wilson shared her experience in a meeting related to this issue where questions were raised about community participation.
- b. Exploring National Partnerships with First Repair and Other Reparations-Focused Organizations
  - i. Chairwoman Williams had a conversation with Robin Rue Simmons discuss a partnership with BAC and First Repair. Working together will position Tulsa on a national platform and provide resources to BAC. Will continue to discuss.

#### **VII. Announcements / Public Comments**

- a. Vice Chair Wilson congratulated Deputy Mayor Reyes for being inducted into the Oklahoma Hispanic Hall of Fame.
- b. Commissioner West introduced two guests in the audience.
- c. Chairwoman Williams, Councilor Hall-Harper, and Commissioner West attended a conference in San Jose to speak about Greenwood.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

- a. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to adjourn.
  - i. Commissioner West made a motion, Vice Chair Wilson seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 10
  - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 2:29 pm.