

AJMP Minutes

**Athens Justice and Memory Project
Team Meeting #15
Wednesday, March 16, 2022
5 pm – 6:30 pm
Virtual WebEx Meeting**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LX72gmKIJAY>

- A. Moment of silence for Linnentown descendants
 - a. The Committee will take a moment of silence to acknowledge and show respect to those who are no longer with us.

- B. The Chairperson will ask that all participants state their name before speaking, since some members are calling in via phone
 - a. The Secretary will lead a roll call of team and support members

Approval of the last meeting minutes (Vote)

Unanimously voted “Yes” - the minutes were received in advance, not read during the meeting.

- C. Attendance: some members are calling in via phone
 - Hattie Thomas Whitehead, Committee Chair and First Descendant of Linnentown
 - Bobby Crook, First Descendant of Linnentown
 - Christine Davis Johnson, First Descendant of Linnentown
 - Freddie Jackson, First Descendant of Linnentown
 - Dr. Jennifer Rice, UGA Professor and Researcher, Parliamentarian
 - Kelly Girtz, ACCGov Mayor
 - Commissioner Mariah Parker, ACCGov Commissioner, District 2
 - Commissioner Mike Hamby, ACCGov Commissioner, District 10
 - Selah Gardiner, ACCGov Inclusion Office, non-voting member

- Blaine Williams, ACCGov Manager, non-voting/supporting member
- D. Dr. Jenn Rice conducted a comprehensive update presentation on the ‘Walk of Recognition’ in the meeting prior to this team meeting. Currently on pause as we wait on Mayor & Commission review, update, and/or approve the plan. This is scheduled for next month. Overall, nothing has changed since last month’s meeting.
- Except the right-of-way (ROW): survey has been completed so we are able to move forward with the ‘Walk of Recognition’ and right-of-way. Work session is on April 12th, 2022. Thank you, Blaine Williams and Selah Gardiner.
- E. Hattie Thomas Whitehead gives presentation on the Black History Center
- Presentation is titled: ‘Athens-Clarke County Center for Racial Justice and Black Futures’
 - Hattie Thomas Whitehead will be mailing a copy of the presentation to those on the phone unable to see the presentation.
 - Felt this project was too big to just name after one individual.
 - There are many whose names are unknown or not recorded.
 - Also, various members of the community helped this project get as far as it is.
 - Go as far back 1600’s to the present, then leave exhibit space for the future.
 - Current Board members are acting in an advisory position until an official board is determined and they are up and running.
 - Community Input meetings: (May 27th, 2021 to December 17th, 2021)
 - Erin Stacer has the meeting minutes
 - Potential Funding:
 - Has to be self-sustaining
 - Looking for Grants for operations:
 - Capital improvements: asking for the physical structure of the first floor
 - Possible SPLOST funding if available
 - Action Items:
 - Need the approval of the first floor so it can be included in the grant writing
 - Acquisition of a lease agreement and 501(c) 3 statuses
 - Questions:
 - Kelly Girtz- Building Update:
 - Funding from SPLOST:
 - The “building Envelope”
 - Structurally sound
 - Solid roof
 - Core system (Electrical, HVAC, Elevators, and Bathrooms)
 - Do not have any identified funding for:

- Build out cost
 - First of April: will ask a task force to begin to narrow down the thoughts of the commissioners.
- (Hattie Whitehead) Is there a way for this first floor to become a history center because of the need and expectation of it?
 - (Kelly Girtz) one of eleven on the board so he can not solely make that decision. He recommends the task force be given a strict time frame to determine a conclusion.
- (Hattie Whitehead) emphasizes the importance of moving forward in order to get the grants and community donations needed.
- Dr. Jenn Rice: What is the best-case scenario for when a formal approval for at least this one concept being somewhere in the Costa building could happen?
 - (Kelly Girtz) unable to provide an estimate because of other outside factors
 - (Blaine Williams) may take a couple of meeting to pull that solicitation together. Go out for at least 30 days. Meet a couple more times to review the responses and select the most viable ones. Then communicate the priorities to the commission. Ultimately, at least a four-month process estimated. Late summer/ early fall possibly.
 - (Dr. Jenn Rice) Follow up question- how will this task force be assembled?
 - (Kelly Girtz) a couple of commissioners and about half of dozen residents.
 - (Dr. Jenn Rice) Follow up- They (task force) will be primarily charged with occupancies purposes of the cost of building? Specifically, the entire building?
 - (Kelly Girtz) that's correct.
 - (Dr. Jenn Rice) Follow up- is it possible to do it in a couple of steps, the city in just another process makes a commitment that they want to support a Black history and culture center? Even if things get slowed down at cost of build out or agreeing on uses. Is there a way to narrow in on a Black history and culture center being a priority to be supported through some means of funds in a more abstract sense?
 - (Hattie Whitehead) can we streamline the process?
 - (Dr. Jenn Rice) Can the something be done to formalize the city's commitment to a Black history and cultural center? Making the center its own thing that is not necessarily attached to the cost of building?
 - (Kelly Girtz) the center is referenced in approved commission proclamations and foundational documentation for this group. There is some momentum already, but he will need to give more thought to the questions presented.
- No further questions.
- Hattie Whitehead and Dr. Jenn Rice will present during the next meeting on April 12th, 2022.

- Providing a comprehensive update to the mayor & commissioners on the history center and the walk of recognition.
- Selah Gardiner is working on the agenda items
- That presentation is in person

Meeting Adjourn 5:35pm