



**Agenda**  
**Athens Justice and Memory Project**  
**Team Meeting #19**  
**Wednesday, July 20, 2022**  
**5:00pm - 6:00pm**  
**Virtual**

- A. Hattie Thomas Whitehead called this meeting to order by stating this team was assembled in September 2020 to work on avenues of atonement outlined in the Linnentown Project resolution.
- B. Moment of silence for Linnentown descendants
  - a. The justice and memory team took a moment of silence to acknowledge and show respect to those who are no longer with us.
- C. Ms. Thomas Whitehead stated that the minutes of the last meeting were distributed to members in advance of the meeting and asked if there are any amendments to the minutes.
  - a. Dr. Jennifer Rice (as Parliamentarian) asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Mariah Parker made a motion to accept, Dr. Rice seconded, and the meetings were accepted with no opposition.
- D. Ms. Thomas Whitehead asked Interim Inclusion Officer Selah Gardiner to give an update on the ACCGov side.
  - a. Mrs. Gardiner states that the biggest update was the communication received from the University of Georgia questioning the ownership of the right-of-way on Finley. ACCGov's Attorney's Office is working through that with UGA. Mrs. Gardiner stated that we are back in a holding pattern in terms of the 'Walk of Recognition' as it relates to the ownership of the right-of-way from Baxter to Finley Street.
  - b. Ms. Thomas Whitehead asked if this is just for the mosaic. Mrs. Gardiner responded that this also affects the historical signage because they are not sure of the ownership of the right-of-way. They are waiting to hear more.
  - c. Ms. Thomas Whitehead thanked the staff for working on this.
- E. Ms. Thomas Whitehead asked Charlene Marsh to give her report to the Athens Justice and Memory Project as the chairperson of the Economic Analysis subcommittee.

- a. Ms. Marsh stated that the Economic Analysis subcommittee met on July 15 to discuss the report presented by Dr. Jerry Shannon as well as next steps. Ms. Marsh presented two main proposals from the subcommittee.
- b. The first proposal would be a formal recognition of the report presented by Dr. Shannon by the Athens-Clarke County Commission.
- c. The second proposal would be to split the \$2.5 million that was found in that report. One-half of that sum (\$1.25 million) would be allocated toward capital build-out costs for the Black History Center. Those costs would be flooring, paint, other construction, etc. This would not include the operations of the center. The other half of the total sum (the other \$1.25 million) would be used for affordable housing development programs, specifically down payment assistance and repairs for elderly homeowners.
- d. Mayor Kelly Girtz stated that there are a couple of ways the Mayor and Commission could accept the report. One of those ways would be to enter it into the record as a delivery from this officially appointed body (AJMP). That is something that happens through the Clerk of Commission's Office sort of recurrently as they regularly have reports from outside groups and this one was pursuant to a request of this full group. In terms of the two financial elements, there are a couple of sources of funds, like the capital funds that Ms. Marsh outlined for build-out. Mayor Girtz stated that they may be able to look at a couple of different prospective sources; there may be some unallocated SPLOST funds that have accrued through interest income or leftover funds from other projects that came in under cost. Another prospective source could be the American Rescue Plan Act funds. There are still some unallocated ARPA dollars that will be discussed on August 18 and 19; this could be discussed there as well. Mayor Girtz stated that he is very favorable towards that affordable housing piece; he stated that he would be happy to discuss that further at the late August commission retreat.
- e. Ms. Thomas Whitehead thanked Mayor Girtz and asked if anyone had any questions for him. Dr. Rice thanked everyone who worked on these recommendations and Mayor Girtz for his insights. Dr. Rice asked whether one-half of the money should be used to fund the build-out of the Black History Center or whether it should go towards buying the artifacts that will be displayed in the center; what are the pros and cons of that decision? Ms. Thomas Whitehead stated that they are working with a preservation team from Atlanta and, once they figure out where they are going to be located, that will determine how this money will be used. Ms. Thomas Whitehead said they are looking at all options to use the money once it is allocated.
- f. Ms. Thomas Whitehead asked for any other questions. Mrs. Gardiner asked if there needs to be any kind of formal action to move these recommendations to a

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work session or to make a formal recommendation to the Mayor and Commission. Assistant Manager Niki Jones asked Mayor Girtz if he had a preference on how this comes forward for Mayor and Commission. Mayor Girtz said he would give it some thought and get with Assistant Manager Jones later that week.

- g. It is agreed that Dr. Shannon should present the economic report to the full Mayor and Commission if his schedule permits it. Mrs. Gardiner stated that a motion must be made that this report will be delivered by staff to the full body. Dr. Rice made that motion, Ms. Thomas Whitehead seconded, and the motion passed without opposition. Ms. Thomas Whitehead asked if it would be possible for Dr. Shannon to do the presentation at a work session for the Mayor and Commission and then Athens Justice and Memory present their recommendations to the full body in the same session. It is agreed that Ms. Thomas Whitehead's approach would be the most efficient and there needs to be another meeting by the Athens Justice and Memory Project to formalize the recommendations in terms of the economic pieces before it is presented to the full body. Dr. Rice asked if Mrs. Gardiner could get this item on the October work session agenda and Mrs. Gardiner agreed.
- F. Ms. Thomas Whitehead introduced Andrew Salinas to present a 10-year budget forecast.
- a. Mr. Salinas sketched out what the first 10 years of operations could look like for this Black History Center. In year 1, the first step before the museum is open to the public would be to hire an executive director who would work closely with the board. The first full-time hire is set at \$70,000 annually with 40% overhead to cover benefits, incidentals, and other labor overhead costs. For years 2 and 3, there will be a half-time position (perhaps a UGA graduate student) that would provide essential labor and support until the center is mature enough to hire the second full-time position. It is posited that the second full-time position would be in the range of \$55,000 annually. Interns and volunteers are crucial to the operations of the museum particularly in the first couple of years. Programmatic costs are possibly understated if there will be a mobile version of this museum. Having a substantial capital investment for the center from the beginning should help control programmatic operating costs moving forward. The numbers in column I are grant income and unrestricted foundational support as a percentage of total expenses starting year 1 at 15%. 70% of philanthropy in the US happens through individual giving; that is a big part of the equation for this center. This budget version is pretty reliant on event income. Income is forecasted to grow 5% annually, individual giving is 6% annually.
  - b. Commissioner Parker asked if this spreadsheet was shared with the whole group and Mr. Salinas said yes.
  - c. Ms. Thomas Whitehead asked if there were any questions. Dr. Rice asked whether art installations and archival acquisitions are built into this spreadsheet.

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Mr. Salinas answered that it could be built out a good bit, but it will depend on the acquisition strategy. Mr. Salinas stated that there are a lot of pieces that are privately owned that could potentially be donated to a center like this.

- d. Commissioner Parker brought up the point of licensing the use of certain pieces rather than physically acquiring them.
- G. Ms. Thomas Whitehead asked if Dr. Rice had any other comments about the Walk of Recognition. Dr. Rice said no and that the RFP for signage and RFQ for project manager are on pause until the right-of-way question is resolved.
- H. Commissioner Parker motioned to conclude the meeting, Ms. Marsh seconded, and the meeting ended.

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