

Commission to Examine Racial Inequity in the Law

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 1, 2019
Black History Museum of Virginia
Richmond, VA 23219
1pm – 3:30pm

1. Call to Order by Cynthia Hudson, Chair

- Commissioners Present:
 - Hon. Jerrauld Jones
 - Hon. Birdie Jamison
 - Carla Jackson
 - Leslie Chambers Mehta
 - Jill Hanken
 - Andy Block
 - Hank Chambers
- Commissioners not Present:
 - Hon. Mike Herring

2. Public Comment

- There was no public comment received

3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes

- Motion to adopt meeting minutes from September 9, 2019 meeting. Meeting minutes were duly adopted.

4. Election of a Vice Chair

- Andy Block was nominated by Hon. Jerrauld Jones to fill the position of Vice Chair to the Commission. The motion to nominate was seconded by Hon. Birdie Jamison and was unanimously approved by the rest of the Commission. Andy Block was elected Vice Chair of the Commission.

5. General Housekeeping and Compliance

- Jessica Killen was appointed FOIA officer to the Commission
- Don Ferguson was recognized as Counsel to the Commission

6. Remarks by Adele Johnson, Executive Director of the Black History Museum of Virginia

- Ms. Johnson welcomed the Commission members to the museum. She shared information on the museum's mission, exhibits, and upcoming activities.

7. Introduction of Jill Hanken

- Ms. Hanken introduced herself to the group and shared her regrets for not being able to attend the first meeting.

8. Refresher Presentation by Hon. Jay DeBoer

- Mr. DeBoer gave a brief review of the presentation that he gave at the last Commission meeting regarding Virginia law.

9. Committees' Read-out:

1. Health: Hanken & Chambers
2. Finance: Jackson & Chambers
3. Voting: Hanken & Herring
4. Housing: Black, Jamison & Jones
5. Criminal: Jamison & Herring

10. Remarks by Governor Ralph S. Northam

- Gov. Northam addressed the Commission and thanked them for their diligent work with the Commission.

11. Committees' Read-out (continued):

6. Education: Block & Hudson
7. Confederate Pensions Memorials: Jones & Mehta
8. Miscellaneous: Jackson & Mehta

12. Committees' Read-out Recommendations

- Consensus of the Commission was to hold off formal action on the recommendations of each sub-committee until all sub-committees have finished giving their reports and all recommendations have been received

13. Discussion of Available Support

- Commission discussed areas and individuals who can support the work and research of the Commission, which includes law and undergraduate students in the Commonwealth, in particular law students from the University of Richmond. Ms. Hudson also shared that there has been demonstrated interest at the Office of the Attorney General to support the work of the Commission in whatever capacity it may find it needs assistance.

14. Assignments & Next Steps:

- Assignments:
 1. Begin drafting individual topic sections for the Commission report, which is due November 15, 2019.
 2. Begin drafting time period topic areas of the report (divided by decade).
- Future Meetings:
 1. Meeting 3: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 1:00pm
 1. Will need to complete Committee Read-outs:
 - a. Transportation
 - b. Voting
 - c. Housing (continued)

2.Phase 1 Wrap-Up Meeting: November 7, 2019 at 1:00pm

15. Adjournment

Following the adjournment of the Commission's meeting, all of the Commissioners were invited to tour the Black History Museum of Virginia.