

**Alexandria Community Remembrance Project Steering Committee Meeting**  
**April 18, 2023**  
**5p.m.-6p.m.**  
**Alexandria Black History Museum**  
**902 Wythe Street, Alexandria, 22314**

**Meeting Notes**

Present: Audrey Davis, Rose Dawson, Quardricos Driskell, Mark Farkas, Linda Howard, Michael Johnson, Jean Kelleher, MacArthur Myers, Tiffany Pache, Sarah Whelan.

1. Call to order by Audrey at 5:05 p.m.

MacArthur Myers announced that the Masonic Memorial will continue to host the MLK event. He also said there is an MLK bench that will be dedicated in May and will live on the Memorial grounds.

2. ACRP Remembrance Programs for Joseph McCoy. Tiffany explained the planned events for the McCoy Remembrance April 21-24. There was concern that there was not going to be a citywide press release.

- April 21-24 Illumination. Mac and Mark offered to distribute the McCoy sandwich signs on Friday. They will pick them up at the Lloyd House at 11 a.m.
- April 22 Public Meeting on Transformational Justice. One hour program. Welcome and Moment of Silence by Mayor Wilson, Gretchen summary of ACRP work to date, Audrey intro of speaker. Billi Wilkerson presentation for 30 minutes followed by Q and A. Jean said she will come at 10 a.m. to help us set up.

- April 23 Wreath Laying Ceremony. We discussed the shape the steering committee would like this ceremony to take. While we are fortunate to have tremendous support from the Mayor and City Council, this particular event should not be one with officials presiding or playing leading roles (they should do this at the lecture on Saturday instead). The focus should be on Joseph McCoy and what happened to him. They preferred to have readers instead of silent readings. Rose Dawson was selected to do the first reading. RaAlim Shabazz the second reading. They would like city officials and Mac to carry and lay the wreath. They would like a contrast between silence and the drums. Mac explained there will be a police and EMT presence at various points from 1:30-3 p.m.

3. Update on Descendants. Audrey provided an update on the McCoy's who will be joining us for the events this weekend. She also provided a little more information about the Thomas descendants. There is a need for the descendant committee to meet and proceed with a letter introduction followed by a virtual or in-person meeting.

Michael will transport the McCoy members on Saturday.

4. Update on Process and Progress workshop series. Tiffany filled the steering committee in on the positive workshop series that has been offered by Kiki and Joe at St. Stephen, St. Agnes. Two have been completed and a third will happen at the end of April. There is a hope to generalize it and offer it to the entire ACRP community. About 40 of the 130 or so adults who went on pilgrimage have been participating. There was discussion about the need to bring workshops like these and about racial history and reconciliation into the

community. There was also discussion of the March 28<sup>th</sup> Bryan Stevenson talk in Charlottesville that ACRP members had attended.

5. May EJI Essay Contest Award Ceremony. Reminder that the award ceremony will be in council chambers on May 20. There were 12 entries from ACPS. The Essay Contest committee will meet May 2 at 3:30 p.m. virtually to discuss the program. There was discussion of getting city lapel pins for the students and having a proclamation written that celebrates their involvement.
6. Benjamin Thomas Remembrance August 8, 2023, planning committee. The Steering committee would like us to send an invite to all and those who can attend will.
6. Next Meeting Date: May 16 at 5 p.m.