

**Alexandria Community Remembrance Project
Steering Committee Meeting Notes
Tuesday, May 16, 2023
5 – 6 pm
Alexandria Black History Museum
902 Wythe Street, Alexandria, 22314**

MEETING NOTES

**In Attendance: Audrey Davis, Rose Dawson, Rev. Driskell, Jean Kelleher, Tiffany Pache,
RaAlim Shabazz, Sarah Whelan and Kennetra Wood.**

1. Audrey Davis called the meeting to order at 5:07.
2. Davis, Pache, Dawson and Whelan ran through the planned EJI Essay Contest Award program for Saturday. It was shared that EJI was sending Deksyos Damtew to be a part of the event. It was also shared that there were 10 entries from ACHS. There was debate on who could read Superintendent Kay-Wyatt's remarks. We decided to hold a short reception following the ceremony.
3. Possible New Marker for Benjamin Thomas. In Rabbi Spinrad's absence, Pache explained that the resident of the house that was once the Jail from where Benjamin Thomas was taken had offered to have a historic marker placed on his home. This would allow for a sizeable marker that could better tell the story of Thomas. There were a couple concerns from the marker committee that were discussed. The hope is that if we can move forward, it would be installed before the August 8, 2023 Remembrance for Benjamin Thomas.
4. Davis informed Steering Committee members they are all invited to serve on the planning meetings for the Benjamin Thomas Remembrance Event which will be held on the following dates and times at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington Street.
 - a. June 7 (3 to 4), July 11 (1 to 2), August 3 (3 to 4)
5. Davis also announced that after an RFP process, Robin Hamilton of ARound Robin Productions was selected to produce a documentary on Alexandria's Lynching History.
6. Davis led a discussion of the Fall Public Meeting. The Steering Committee were asked if September 23, 2024 was a good date for all and it was agreed we would hold a public meeting on that date. Davis suggested a few possible speakers and Steering Committee Members were asked to generate more ideas. Whelan and Pache brought up the idea of sticking with the theme of Transformational Justice and trying to build on the public meeting held on April 22 on that topic.
7. Pache gave a positive report about the Process and Progress Workshop series held over the winter. Kiki and Joe have agreed to another workshop series in the fall that would be open to all ACRP members. There was discussion about the desire by the participants in the workshop to continue to meet and whether ACRP could support that. The Steering Committee decided to create a subcommittee to develop ideas for this group and broadening it moving forward.
8. Student Scholarship for Spring 2024. Kelleher thought we should begin immediately and work with the Scholarship Fund for Alexandria. After much positive discussion the

Steering Committee decided to start a committee to work on establishing an endowment for a scholarship program in McCoy and Thomas names.

9. During additional business, Dawson and several others shared positive feedback from the Joseph McCoy Remembrance Event on Sunday, April 23.
10. The Next Meeting of the full Steering Committee will be August 1, 2023. From that point forward, the committee will meet the first Tuesday of every month at 5 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum.
11. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.