

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project

Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

5 – 6 pm

Alexandria Black History Museum

902 Wythe Street, Alexandria, 22314

Meeting Summary

Steering Committee Members Attending: Audrey Davis, Michael Johnson, Jean Kelleher, McArthur Myers, Tiffany Pache, RaAlim Shabazz, David Spinrad, Sarah Whelan, and Kennetra Woods.

Guest Speakers: Jasmine Milone and Alyssa Samuel

Public: Beth Roberts (Old Presbyterian Meeting House), Mary Bramley (OHA)

1. Call to Order at 5:02 by Audrey Davis.
2. Student Scholarship for Spring 2024

Steering Committee reviewed the finalized criteria they set from previous meetings:

Joseph McCoy Memorial Scholarship

\$3000

This award is for a student planning to go into a trade and can be applied to community college courses, and/or a program to develop skills, and/or to defray the costs of certifications and licensures not covered by an apprenticeship, or by other means.

Criteria: 2.0 GPA, African American student (Male, Female, Nonbinary).

Benjamin Thomas Memorial Scholarship

\$3000

This scholarship is to go towards a four-year college degree program (all four years do not need to be completed at the same institution). Preference for students intending to pursue further education in a social justice or truth telling field, such as but not limited to: African American Studies; History; Journalism; Education/Teaching (especially male students); Law, Art and the ministry.

Criteria: 2.0 GPA, African American student (Male, Female, Nonbinary).

Preference given to African American students who have demonstrated leadership among their peers, and/or activism on social justice and racial justice issues, and/or a commitment to said issues, including tutoring and other activities that show an interest in becoming a future educator.

Tables of Conscience Fundraising Dinners

Tiffany Pache reported that 24 people participated in three *Tables of Conscience* Fund Raising dinners and \$2250 was raised toward the two scholarships. Thanks were given to the dinner hosts: Jean Kelleher, Rose Dawson, Karen Coda, Beth Tuttle, Audrey Davis, and Tiffany Pache. A recommendation was made to have just one dinner per Saturday evening for better turn out and a

request for hosts for four dinners to be held in January and February was made to the Steering Committee members.

Scholarship Fund of Alexandria (SFA) Guest speakers

Jasmine Milone, SFA Executive Director, and Alyssa Samuel, SFA Director of Scholarship Programming, explained how the application and selection process will work for the scholarships.

- SFA uses a universal application – students are not applying specifically for the McCoy or Thomas scholarships. The application open on Nov. 1, 2023 and close on Jan. 31, 2024.
- Reviewers look at redacted applications and rate them on a rubric shared by SFA.
- Applications are ranked and are matched by highest value to highest ranked qualifying student. The SFA office assigns the scholarships to the appropriate applicants. Their forms are not redacted.
- Students are notified in April. They provide thank you notes.
- ACRP is able to include the descendants of McCoy and Thomas to the extent the families wish to participate.

3. ACPS Remembrance Students

Mr. Shabazz informed the Steering Committee that the students have selected Hampton as a pilgrimage site for this year's trip. They have discussed this with the new Principal, Mr. Duncan, who is very supportive. The students realize they will have to fundraise more to take this trip and they will prepare for this as soon as the Fall play is done.

4. EJI Marker

Rabbi Spinrad shared with the committee that the text for the EJI markers has been completed and finalized by the Marker Committee. It is currently being reviewed by OHA staff responsible for historic markers. It will be provided to the Steering Committee after that for review.

5. Spring Public Meeting

The Steering Committee discussed an opportunity to have Grace Elizabeth Hale speak to the Spring ACRP meeting about her new book, *Into the Pines*, and her experience sharing the hard truth of her grandfather's involvement in a lynching.

6. NAACP Recognition of ACRP

McArthur Myers acknowledged the NAACP's recognition of ACRP's work with a service award at their gala in October.

7. 2024 Retreat

The Steering Committee agreed on January 3, 2024 for a planning retreat.

The meeting concluded at 6 p.m. No December meeting is planned.