

Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board
City of Roanoke, Virginia
MINUTES
September 7, 2023

I. **CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL**

Vice Chair Peter Wonson called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Katie Hedrick called the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Wonson, Jonathan Lloyd, Phazhon Nash, Patice Holland, Kait Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Angela Penn, Dr. Bill Lee

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Bob Cowell, City Attorney Tim Spencer, staff liaison Katie Hedrick, subcommittee members: Malcolm Quigley, Ahoo Salem, Rafael Velez, Amazetta Anderson, Marc Davis, Amy Beachy, Sandee Szabo, Stacey Joyce

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 6, 2023 MEETING**

Unanimously approved by voice vote

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Subcommittee Orientation**

Overview of Council/Manager form of government

Role of EEAB is to make recommendations to Council; envisioned as a permanent body rather than a temporary or project-specific taskforce

Descriptions of priorities and action items have been adopted by Council, but subcommittees are tasked with fleshing out these goals

Shared briefly about role of staff liaison relative to City staff, EEAB members, and subcommittees

b. **EEAB Notes template**

Send out every other month (even months), helps to build connections between various subcommittees, provide updates from chairs, post on website; format and draft approved

c. **Hidden in Plain Site**

Documentary shared by Angela Penn highlighting often forgotten sites of historical significance to Roanoke's Black population, including Dreamland, Burrell Hospital, Old Lick Cemetery, and more

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. **Public Apology**

Mr. Spencer: Process has started, intended to be an action document with firm commitments and identifiable results, not just apology language; will include financial commitments

Needs to be written in the voice of the community and EEAB; Jordan Bell helping with draft that will be ready for 11/2 meeting

Suggestions: in conjunction with a celebration, must incorporate accountability and transparency; use numbers and data

Draft from City Attorney's office will be given to EEAB members then also shared with subcommittees for input

b. Subcommittee updates and schedules

Subcommittee meeting dates have been set for each month and calendar invites have been sent

Notes and highlights from each subcommittee will be included in newsletter

V. **NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, November 2, at Melrose Branch Library

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

Peter Wonson adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Angela Penn
Chair

Patice Holland
Secretary