

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 5, 2023
5 – 6 pm
Lloyd House
220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, 22314
Meeting Notes

In Attendance: Gretchen Bulova, Jean Kelleher, McArthur Myers, David Spinrad, Tiffany Pache, RaAlim Shabazz, David Spinrad, Sarah Whelan, Kennetra Wood.

Members of the public: Paul Glist and Carisa Praitt-Creque.

1. Gretchen called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
2. Members reflected on the August 8 Thomas Remembrance. Most believed that having student's hold the signs throughout the procession was moving and powerful and helped to tell the narrative. Mahmoud did a great job sharing the narrative from Benjamin Thomas. The Acknowledgment statement at the end was powerful and really drew people in. The multigenerational interfaith aspect makes the remembrances really special. We believe there were about 300 people participating in the event. Gretchen will share the photographs with the committee members.
3. Fall Event – September 23, ACRP will host Joan Mulholland at the Lyceum. Discussion of program, run of show and to dos. Tiffany will share registration information with Mr. Shabazz to give to Remembrance students.
4. Student Scholarship for Spring 2024 & Fundraising. Looking to hold fund raising dinners based on social justice books as early as November. The

original concept was for 10 dinners in the Fall and 10 in the Spring.

Members proposed pairing down the initial set of dinners so that we can test out the process. It was decided to hold a meeting with volunteer hosts and provide three discussion questions and pointers for facilitation. Attendees will receive a rules of engagement prior to attending the event. It was also suggested there be a call to action at the conclusion. Instructions and information will be shared as soon as we know we can begin.

5. Mr. Shabazz said the ACPS Remembrance Students held their kickoff meeting last week. They next meet on Sept. 26, and he expects even more participation from BSU and other groups of students who had not had their initial meetings yet. Students will take a mini-pilgrimage (day trip) in the spring and break up into committees for the planning and fundraising for the trip.
6. Gretchen reported that Robin Hamilton had begun in-person interviews for the ACRP documentary.
7. Spring Planning (McCoy Remembrance, ACRP Public Meeting). This item was not discussed during this meeting.
8. Descendant Research – Tiffany reported that ACRP Genealogist Char Bah has completed her research on the McCoy family. We now know that Joseph McCoy was the son of Harriet Chase and George McCoy. Neither of his

parents claimed him nor his younger brother John by the same parents. He was raised in Alexandria by Cecelia McCoy until her death in 1895 and was then cared for by his Aunt Rachel Chase Gray. Rachel, her husband Samuel, and Joseph's brother John McCoy, moved to Washington, DC after the lynching.

Members of the public were present and Ms. Praitt-Creque wanted to know if the Remembrance Students could expand to college students attending the Northern Virginia Community College. Mr. Shabazz will reach out to a contact at NOVA, Ms. Pache will reach out to Laura at Student Life at NOVA and Ms. Praitt-Creque shared her contact information as well.

Next Meeting: October 3, 2023 (First Tuesday of every month) at the Alexandria Black History Museum.