

Commonwealth of Virginia

**Commission to Study Slavery and Subsequent De Jure and
De Facto Racial and Economic Discrimination
Against African Americans**

**January 6, 2022, 2:00 p.m.
Main Conference Rooms**

Library of Virginia

Members present: Delegate Delores L. McQuinn, chair; Senator Mamie E. Locke, vice chair; Delegate Joshua Cole; Jody Lynn Allen; Andrea Douglas; John W. Kinney; Karen Sherry; and Daniel P. Watkins. Cassandra L. Newby-Alexander and Xavier Richardson joined the meeting via Zoom.

Call to Order

Commission chair Delores L. McQuinn called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and confirmed a quorum of Commission members present in person.

Approval of the Agenda and the Minutes of the October 8, 2021, Meeting

Delegate McQuinn asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda as well as the minutes of the October 8, 2021, meeting as distributed to Commission members. Dr. Douglas moved to approve the agenda and minutes; Mr. Watkins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Introduction of Commission Project Manager, Dominique Luster

Delegate McQuinn introduced the recently hired program manager, Dominique Luster. Ms. Luster then said a few words about her background and how excited she was to take on the Commission's work.

Review and Discussion of Draft Work Plan

A planning document was provided to the Commission by the Library's staff that included a timeline for the work for the next two years. Dr. Kinney asked about the possible extension of the Commission's work past the current June 30, 2022, date. Delegate McQuinn reported that legislation had been introduced in both houses of the General Assembly to extend the Commission for two more years and to provide additional funding. Dr. Allen and Dr. Douglas asked about a timeline for the decision on the extension. Delegate McQuinn and staff explained that the timeline would follow the bill approval process of the General Assembly and the Governor, meaning a final decision would not be reached until late April.

Dr. Kimball, the Library of Virginia's staff liaison to the Commission, walked the members of the Commission through the work plan and timeline. Delegate McQuinn asked for ideas for

soliciting public comment on the Commission's work. Commission members suggested creating an online forum for public comment and holding town hall gatherings in communities across the state to solicit new stories, and perhaps conducting some interviews or oral histories. Delegate McQuinn then asked for thoughts on the draft work plan. Commission members suggested continuing to expand the database of experts and relevant scholarship on the topics outlined in the legislation creating the Commission; making sure that rural areas of the state that aren't well researched are included in the research; and identifying material on Virginia's Free People of Color. Delegate Cole mentioned Liberty Town, a free community that was absorbed by Fredericksburg. Other suggestions included collaborating with the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society and with historians and archivists at colleges such as Norfolk State, Virginia State, and Hampton Universities.

Dr. Kinney asked what the Commission envisioned as the outcome of the Commission's work. The chair and other Commission members expressed that the Commission's work would:

- Educate community and political leaders and the general public about the historical and current inequities in all areas studied by the Commission.
- Develop information that will inform funding decisions at the state and local level.
- Design legislation and other tools that address the inequities described in the report. The Commission's report should not just sit on a shelf.

Public Comment

The chair then asked for public comment. One gentleman asked whether the issues of land use and planning would be an area of study for the Commission. He stated that he had become a farmer after migrating back to Virginia. He thought property ownership and other land use laws should be studied.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

To view a recording of the meeting, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0sI-VGjTgo>.