

**Minutes from
Prince George's County Lynching Memorial Project (PGCLMP)
General Membership Meeting of 04/17/2021**

Attendees: Diane Teichert, Crystal Carpenter, Krystina Tucker, Jody Wildy, Lula Beatty, Katie Pugliese, Donna Hoffmeister, Leigh Ryan, Sarah K. Harper, Steve Donoian, Kristen Ross, Leslie Beech-Morris, Jade Eaton, Patricia McCartney, Emily DeMarco, Austin DeMarco, Liz Muller, Leeann Irwin, Diane Hampton, Pat Neal, Carolyn Rowe, Michael Brehl, Diane Hampton, Kristen Ross, Elinor Thompson, MJ Park.

Action Items are noted in **Bold Blue font**

Call to Order. Krystina called the meeting to order at 2:05, welcomed everyone, and reviewed the meeting process.

Calling of Names. Sarah Harper called the names of Prince George's County lynching victims: **Thomas Juricks**, 1869, Piscataway; **John Henry Scott**, Oxon Hill, 1875; **Michael Green**, 1878, Upper Marlboro; **Joseph Vermillion**, 1889, Upper Marlboro; **Stephen Williams**, 1894, Upper Marlboro.

Review of Minutes. Crystal asked for corrections to the minutes of March 20. No corrections were identified.

Maryland Lynching Memorial Project Liaison Update. No report was given as no meeting was held.

State of Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission Liaison Update. No report was provided.

Introductions of any Newcomers and Guests. Leslie Beech-Morris, a newcomer, was welcomed to the group.

Report on April 16 EJI Meeting. Jade reported on the meeting with Equal Justice Initiative staff, Kayla Vincent and Breana Lamkin. EJI requested the meeting to discuss the proposal submitted by PGC LMP requesting support for the community remembrance (soil collection) event. Several Steering Committee members attended. EJI had several questions for the PGC LMP. They had a general question about how the group came together, what parts of the county were represented, the number of people in the group, and if there was any community push back. It was stated that the group had not yet experienced any community resistance.

They asked the timeframe for the community remembrance event and what the event would be. They were told that October was the goal, but the final type of event was not decided as it would be done in collaboration with the community.

EJI stated that Michael Green and Stephen Williams were on their list, but the other three men on the PGC LMP list (Juricks, Scott, and Vermillion) were not. For them to support a memorial plaque for the other 3 men, they would have to be officially added to their list based on their confirmation that the men were victims of racial terror lynching. They requested documentation. **ACTION ITEM - Katie/Jade:** The History and Genealogy committee was asked to provide the documentation. Katie will reach out to H&G for the info and provide to Jade who will send it to EJI.

EJI can work with PGC LMP on an October event for Juricks before they do their research if a memorial plaque is not involved.

Kyla asked if there was interest in an essay contest. EJI can sponsor one for public high school students providing up to \$6,000.00 per contest for cash prizes. If we choose to go forward with this, EJI has a facilitation packet/guidance that offers themes, for example, based on points of local history and how it affects current life. Montgomery County currently has support for an essay contest. It must be county-wide (to the question raised about targeting the Piscataway area, the site of the first proposed community remembrance event.). PGC LMP can support other contests (for private schools, other types of contests such as creative arts) though we would have to provide the funds. Katie noted that we can address local history, but we would have to do our own marketing.

Jade asked how we can best use the resource and that we need a liaison; thought it may be of interest to History and Education committees.

PGCLMP Liaisons to EJI: EJI suggested that there be 2-3 liaisons. Jade said she is the point-of-contact and not a liaison. She recommended that liaisons come from History, Outreach or Community Remembrance, and Education committees. **ACTION ITEM - Committee Co-Chairs:** Jade asked that committees discuss and recommend someone from their committee. She noted that EJI requires that at least one liaison be African American. [Update from Breakout Sessions: Education Cmte recommends Pat Neal. Outreach Cmte elected not to recommend anyone, leaving slots open for other committees.

Katie expressed enthusiasm about the meeting with EJI. **ACTION ITEM - Katie:** will complete minutes from the EJI meeting and send them out to the Steering Committee for further distribution as appropriate.

Breakout Rooms. Committees met for 40 minutes.

Community Remembrance. Jade reported that they have been working on an initial standard presentation that people can use when meeting with different organizations. They discussed some overlap between the remembrance project and the work of the outreach committee. Leann has done lots of work in Piscataway with homeowners, other groups, etc. Next steps include having deeper conversation with those organizations. They emphasized thinking with sensitivity before asking what kind of remembrance event is planned. They are preparing a

committee budget (as requested by the Steering Committee for help in our request for funds from Del. Jolene Ivey's Office). Katie reached out to Montgomery County to see what they spent on their soil collection events to get insight into costs.

Education. Liz reports that a committee budget will be given to the Steering Committee. A webinar on policing in P.G. County is being planned. It will provide a history of policing in the county. The ACLU will reflect on new legislation and someone from Community Justice will discuss continuing issues. The end of the webinar will discuss what more needs to be done and what citizens can do. The committee wants an essay contest that is open to private high schools and discussed how this might be done (e.g., working with someone at Flowers High School). Pat Neal was identified as the liaison to EJI. **ACTION ITEM - Jade:** Add *Pat Neal* from the Education Cmte as one of PGCLMP's 3 liaison's to EJI. Provide introduction and contact info between Pat and EJI reps.

Outreach. Emily reported that the outreach committee is drafting a sample email that can be used by all when approaching/meeting new organizations. It provides information on PGC LMP. They reminded people to record any outreach efforts or contacts in our shared spreadsheet: [Outreach and Contacts](#). They do not have a candidate to serve as a liaison to EJI (elected not to). They are waiting to post events on Facebook, website, etc. They are interested in making flyers for committee events (e.g., the policing webinar). They asked the Education committee to post something on racial justice advancements on the web. **ACTION ITEM - Outreach Cmte:** Follow up with the Education committee co-chairs for information on recent racial justice advancements for posting on the web. Diane asked how to get events on Facebook. Emily replied to send the event notice to them on Facebook or to Emily and/or Karen Scrivo.

History and Genealogy. Jody reported that the committee decided to drop Joseph Vermillion as a lynching terror victim. Their research found that he was white and a pyromaniac (burned a barn) and that his entire family was arrested. The MD Archives and the Commission have also dropped him. He will no longer be on our website and his name will no longer be called at our meetings. **ACTION ITEM - Outreach Cmte:** Remove references to Joseph Vermillion from our website and other social media.

Announcements. Leann asked about 2 upcoming events in May she had shared with the co-chairs. The co-chairs said they had not yet discussed it but would.

Lula stated that the Education committee had requested committee feedback on the fact sheets particularly on topics and the guidelines shared. **ACTION ITEM - Committee Co-Chairs:** Committees were asked to send comments and suggestions on fact sheets to [Lula](#).

Closing. Diane introduced the closing video -- f Maryland, My Maryland: The Free State Song ([Maryland, My Maryland: The Free State Song](#)).

The meeting ended at 3:40 pm.