

University Commission on History, Race, and a Way Forward

Meeting Agenda + Approved Minutes

Virtual Meeting – streamed on HRWF YouTube Channel



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

Monday, November 29, 2021

3:30-3:35PM

Call to Order

- Welcome
- Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes: September 27, 2021

*Jim Leloudis & Pat Parker,
Co-Chairs*

3:35-4:30PM

Commission Updates

- Land acknowledgment
- Barbee Cemetery Project
- Webinar I Review + Planning for community conversation touchpoints
- Race & Equity in schooling

Various Commission Members

4:30PM

Adjourn

Commission on History, Race, and a Way Forward (November 29, 2021) Approved Minutes

Present: **Commission Members:** Co-Chair Patricia Parker, Co-Chair James Leloudis, Delores Bailey, Graham Watkins, Josmell Perez, Kenneth Janken, Nicholas Graham, Ronald Harris, Simona Goldin, Sydni Walker, Amy Hertel, Danita Mason-Hogans

YouTube Link for meeting: <https://youtu.be/-PVdwyU894w>

I. Welcome and Introduction

Commission Co-Chair Pat Parker welcomed Commission members to the meeting and thanked them for being there.

Co-Chair Parker completed a roll call from those present on the Zoom screen. Co-Chair Leloudis asked if there were questions, additions, or discussion points related to the September minutes. Minutes from the September meeting were approved unanimously.

II. Commission Updates

Chancellor's Committee to Review History Commission Resolution

The Chancellor has appointed the ad-hoc committee required under the trustee policy that will review our recommendations and then reports to the chancellor their recommendations for items to go forward to the trustees. Information on how to watch the upcoming livestreams (and watch previous meetings) will be put on our website homepage. Committee is Chaired by Dean Mike Smith, School of Government. Co-chair Parker clarified that there are no commission members on the ad-hoc committee and the process set out by the trustees to review names on the landscape is a product of the commission's work.

Co-chair Leloudis clarified that he and Joseph Jordan are on the Naming Committee. Commission members are encouraged to watch the meetings of the special Chancellor's committee.

Land Acknowledgement

Amy Hertel, Joseph Jordan, and the two co-chairs are working on language for the university land acknowledge, building on the work of the Chancellor's Task Force on University Hlstory. They have shared a draft with Greg Richardson, Executive Director of NC Commission of Indian Affairs. Also plan to share with stakeholders in the NC tribal communities and stakeholders on campus. Work is ongoing.

This would go forward for formal adoption by the university. Working assumption (through direction from the Chancellor and Provost's office) is that there would be a short statement available perhaps published in a variety of forms, and then made widely available across campus. Leadership could encourage groups on campus to adapt it to their

own purpose and needs. This will be a living document and apart of the educational mission of the university. Co-chair Parker reinforced the importance of process and expressed gratitude for all the work being done behind the scenes.

Barbie Cemetery project

Work is going at a good pace. Working with partners in the community and partners at Kenan Flagler Business School. Recent development, signed a contract with an outside firm to do an updated ground penetrating radar mapping of the site.

Commissioner Delores Bailey brought forward wanting to discuss educating first year students about Chapel Hill during their orientation at UNC-CH. Co-chair Parker agreed each project team should be talking about how to educate the public about the work. Co-chair Leloudis agreed this is an important opportunity.

Unsung Founders Memorial Webinar Series

As a reminder, the commission has been tasked with making recommendations to the Chancellor about improvements to the memorial's siting and other steps we might take to ensure it serves its intended purpose of remembrance and honor.

We launched the series on October 18 – Unsung Founders Memorial, Past and Present. We are pleased with how it went and the participation. The first webinar was intended to educate around the origin story of the memorial. It was a model for holding meaningful conversations on topics where there are differences. This is an ongoing process.

Commissioner Mason-Hogans shared that “reconciliation requires truth.” And the conversations were honest and respectful. In the end, we acknowledged to do better and to be in a better place. The conversations we had enlightened the folks who were participants and provided us with new information. Hoping to replicate this.

Commissioner Bailey shared that method we used was the appropriate one. Facts were revealed. It was good for the participants to hear what was going on in the students' world and the artist's world. Byron Wilson was very accepting of the challenging feelings had by community members. Next series will be even larger.

Recording of the webinar is available on the website. Co-chair Parker expressed appreciation to commission members that reinforced the community engagement model. We are now dedicated to righting a process that didn't happen in 2002. The very people meant to be honored were not involved in the conversation. We are pivoting and taking the conversation to the community for in person conversations. Stay tuned for more updates on that. Dawn Osborne-Adams, University Ombuds, will be helping with those conversations.

Race and Equity in Schooling

Commissioner Mason-Hogans and Commissioner Goldin both expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to work with one another on such an important issue. They shared that

they plan to talk with the co-chairs before reporting back to the commission. They are working together well and plan to bring something to the group in the new year.

Co-chair Leloudis adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.