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**African Heritage Reparation Assembly Agenda**  
**Monday, July 25, 2022**  
**2:00 pm via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Michele Miller, Chair; Debora Bridges; Heather Hala Lord; Yvonne Mendez; Dr. Irv Rhodes; Dr. Amilcar Shabazz and Alexis Reed

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:** Lynn Griesemer, Council President; Pamela Young, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director; Jennifer Moyston, Staff Liaison

**1. Call to Order: 2:03 pm**

Welcome, Announcements, Approval of 5/2/2022 and 5/9/2022 Meeting Minutes, and Agenda Review

Introduction to new Committee member Debora Bridges who is 7th generation Amherst including Indigenous.

**Bridges:** Knows the history and harm of the Black and Indigenous peoples of Amherst whose history has been forgotten.

Introduction to Pamela Young, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Young: Excited to be here and I will be working with Boards/committees, staff, council, and residents. Great partnership with Jennifer.

**2. Public Comment:** after discussion part d.

- 3.** Meg Gage: Here to apologize for speaking at the Finance committee in front of Council without having contacted the AHRA first. From here to equality authors for a conversation. The League of Women Vos is sponsoring a webinar with William Darity Jr. and Kristen Mullen about their book "From here to Equality" And will buy \$2,500 worth of books and would like to co-sponsor the event. This would be part of a series of our Judy Brooks Conversation. Asked a way for the LWV to have an of the record conversation about what the Assembly is doing/trying to do.

**4. Presentation:**

None

**5. Action and Discussion Items:**

Moved item d to a to accommodate Councilor Griesemer's schedule.

a. d. Special Legislation Update:

Miller shared her screen Councilor Lynn's proposed Special Act Process document. (see packet materials)

**Councilor Griesemer:** has a proposal to how the process of special legislation works. Asked for Jo Comerford, Mindy Domb, and Lynn to be invited to attend an AHRA meeting. Special legislation is required because if this committee wants to if you

choose to distribute funds to individuals. As the Town is not allowed to distribute funds to individuals without it. Walked the Assembly through the proposed process.

Questions and answers about specifics around the process particularly when it comes to individual payments. Which is the only reason that this needs Special Legislation.

**Miller:** Clarified that when talking about direct benefits it could be in the form of a down payment. We have never talked about direct cash benefits.

**Griesemer:** will urge Town Manager, Paul Bockelman to arrange legal council to attend an AHRA meeting to clarify and answer any questions.

**Mendez:** What if we gave money to legal funds to help residents or if we contribute to the MLK Breakfast Committee and they distribute as a scholarship.

**Miller:** Will work with Paul and Lynn to have a discussion with Lauren from KP Law to find the best time for her to come back and meet with us. As well as Rep Mindy Domb and Senator Comerford.

b. Operating Budget Request

c.

d. Mass Humanities Application

**Miller:** Thanked Hala for the tremendous amount of work that was required for the application, and it has been submitted. The grant director has asked for a few more things to be submitted by 5 pm today. Hala and Alexis are listed as the application Directors in which their resumes are required. I will submit those today. The grant is \$20,000 with a \$20,000 match from the grantee organization. Of the \$20,000, \$18,000 can be in kind donations and \$2,000 will need to come as cash donation. We will need to vote when the time comes for the \$2,000.00 from our money. This will need to be approved by Council. Regarding the in-kind donations I am trying to get letters of commitment from Mattea Kramer stating that she will commit to X number of hours over the next nine months.

**Shabazz moved the motion**

I move that the African Heritage Reparations Assembly approve up to a \$2,000 request of up to \$2,000 is a match in the furtherance of this Mass Humanities Expanding Massachusetts Voices grant application.

**Motion seconded: Dr. Rhodes**

**Motion up for discussion**

**Mendez** My concern is more about the up to \$2,000.00. What if we do not have \$18,000 in in-kind. We will then need to come up with the difference.

**Miller:** Thought is that between Mattea Kramer, Amherst Media, and Committee members we should meet that goal. All members will contribute in some way as well/

**Dr. Shabazz withdrew his motion**

**Mendez:** Moved the motion to empower the Chair Michele Miller to move forward with the changes to the Mass Humanities grant that can include or will include some in-kind of amount up to \$18,000.00.

**Motion Failed due to not seconded**

- e. Community Engagement:
  - i. Survey
  - ii. Outreach to Black Residents
  - iii. Engage Amherst
- f. Ball Lane Development
- g. Reparatory Justice Principles and Tenets

**6. H.R. 40 Update:**

**7. Public Comment:**

**8. Member Reports:**

**9. Upcoming Agenda Items & Meeting Schedules:**

Engagement with the black community. Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> at 2Pm for 1.5

**10. Other Topics:**

Other topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours in advance of the meeting

**11. Adjourn: 3:06 pm**