

MEETING MINUTES: TRUTH Committee DRAFT

Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

1. Attendance

Members Present via Zoom:

- Amber Green, Chair
- Carileigh Jones, Member
- Caroline O'Hare, City Liaison
- Joe Venosa, Member
- Kat Savoy, Member
- Kenisha Le'Cole, Vice-Chair
- Melissa Holland, City Council Representative

2. Wicomico Nursing Home Briefing

- The facility is under County jurisdiction rather than City control.
- Amber presented a briefing on the history and current controversy surrounding the Wicomico Nursing Home.
- Discussion included management and governance concerns, staff terminations, employee morale, and financial issues.
- Members discussed whether the matter should primarily be framed through racial justice and historical context or through current management and governance concerns, while recognizing the facility's history of segregation.
- The committee discussed a possible City recommendation to the Mayor regarding intergovernmental relations and historical acknowledgment.

3. Historical Recognition Options

- Three options for historical recognition were presented.
- The nursing home was founded in 1960 by Phi Delta Kappa sorority to serve African American residents who were excluded from other facilities.
- Kenisha strongly supported Option B.
- Joe suggested waiting for additional details regarding proposed legislation.
- Kenisha stated that historical recognition should proceed regardless of the legislation.

4. Committee Recommendation

- The committee selected Option B.
- The committee recommended that the Mayor formally acknowledge the historical significance of the Wicomico Nursing Home and consider the use of City resources for historical documentation.

- Members discussed the possibility of a historical plaque and partnership with the founding sorority.
- The recommendation should explicitly advise the Mayor to take no position on current personnel, management, or governance disputes.

5. Draft Recommendation and City Council Communication

- Amber will draft the Option B recommendation for committee review and vote.
- The draft should include relevant background information and supporting data.
- Melissa will share the draft with the City Council and clearly identify it as a draft.
- Members emphasized maintaining a clear boundary between the committee's historical work and the current personnel, management, and governance dispute.

6. Historical Documentation and Plaque Project

- Members discussed contacting Phi Delta Kappa regarding historical acknowledgment and a potential plaque.
- The committee discussed the possibility of using committee funds for the project.
- Budget considerations will be discussed at a future meeting.
- Melissa will obtain Mrs. Sinclair's contact information from Cherie Sample-Hughes.

7. Black History Month Planning

- Members discussed creating weekly oral-history videos featuring topics and individuals connected to the local African American community, potentially including the Wicomico Nursing Home, Chipman Culture Center, and Salisbury Middle School graduates.
- Black History Month planning will be added to the next agenda.
- The committee discussed a possible collaboration with "Our Shore, Our Stories."

8. Adjournment & Next Steps

Action Items:

- **Amber:** Send the Wicomico Nursing Home briefing to all committee members.
- **Amber:** Draft the Option B recommendation for committee review.
- **Melissa:** Share the draft recommendation with City Council and identify it as a draft.
- **Melissa:** Obtain Mrs. Sinclair's contact information from Cherie Sample-Hughes.
- **Committee:** Contact Phi Delta Kappa regarding historical acknowledgment and a potential plaque.
- **Committee:** Determine potential funding and budget for the plaque project.
- **Committee:** Add Black History Month planning to the next meeting agenda.
- **Committee:** Consider potential collaboration with "Our Shore, Our Stories."

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Government Office Building (GOB)