

5/14 MEMORIAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2023 / Rich Products, 1 Rich Way Buffalo

In-Person Attendees:

Pastor Mark Blue, Chair

City of Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown

John Dandes, Corporate Vice-President, Rich Products Corporation

Garnell Whitfield, son Ruth Whitfield

Steven Carmina, President, Carmina Wood Design

Tiffany Gaines, Curatorial & Digital Content Associate, Burchfield Penney Art Center

Fragrance Harris-Stanfield, Tops employee and 5/14 survivor

Dr. Norm Lewin, Buffalo Arts Commission

Jennifer Dunning, Western New York Regional Representative, Office of Governor Kathy Hochul

Mo Sumbundu, International Trade Manager, NYS ESD

Online Attendees:

Diane Colgan, Senior Vice President, Tops Friendly Markets

Zeneta Everhart, mother of 5/14 survivor

Meeting Hosts and Minutes: City of Buffalo Director of Policy Deirdre Quain and City of Buffalo Communications and Community Development Assistant Manager Angelica Morrison

Committee Business

Chairman Pastor Mark Blue opened the meeting and made introductions.

Brainstorming & Drafting of the 5/14 Memorial Commission's Mission Statement

“The mission of the 5/14 Memorial Commission is to respectfully develop a living and lasting memorial that will honor the survivors and the lives lost during the racially motivated mass shooting in East Buffalo. The living memorial will embrace the wishes of the families, honor the legacies of their loved ones, and provide ongoing transparency and comfort to members of the community.”

The 5/14 Memorial Commission will follow a process that will help accomplish this mission.

- The commission will be transparent as decisions are made.
- The commission will inclusively and respectfully and involve members of the families.
- The commission will engage in public comment and input.
- The commission will provide periodic updates to the public.

- The commission will involve the Jefferson Avenue community and the community at large.
- The commission will fully vet the type of memorial and the site of the memorial.
- The commission will educate the public about race relations and civil rights.
- The commission will designate a person or persons who's accountable for communications the public.

Creating a Survey

Generate about 20 questions for the members of the public to answer. The questions should be about the memorial and memorial related.

Surveys can be released online as well as at community centers, churches, etc.

Once completed, the survey results can be released to the public and discussed during the first public meeting.

Dandes mentioned other ways to collect public comment – focus groups, community meetings, block clubs, as well as waves of public meetings at various times to accommodate the community.

Site Selection

Steve – Shows maps of possible locations for the memorial.

Buffalo State Event

Garnell is hosting a conference at Buffalo State College on April 21 and invited everyone to attend. He suggested it would be a good opportunity to announce the commission's mission, timeline and public meetings.

Homework:

1. Think of potential questions for the survey
2. Look at potential memorials to help shape what we want to do.

Next Meeting

April 17th at 5:30 p.m. and April 24th at 5:30 p.m.