

**5/14 Memorial Commission
Minutes for August 21, 2023
Rich Products, 1 Rich Way, Buffalo NY**

PRESENT IN PERSON ATTENDANCE

Pastor Mark Blue, Chairman

Dr. Amitra Wall, Associate Provost Buffalo State University

Mo Sumbundu, NYS Empire State Development

Garnell Whitfield, 5/14 Family Member

Dr. Norman Lewin, Buffalo Arts Commission

Jonathan Dandes, Corporate Vice President of Government Relations and Special Projects, Rich Products

Steve Carmina, President of Carmina Wood Design

PRESENT ONLINE

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

HOSTS: Angelica Morrison Communications and Community Relations Assistant Manager City of Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown

Opening Remarks – Chairman Reverend Blue

Reverend Blue discussed the recent meeting with volunteers from M&T Bank regarding their work passing out surveys. They promoted the surveys Wednesday outside the Jefferson Avenue Tops and during the Beverly Gray Block Club Event on August 30th.

Special Presentation – Buffalo History Museum’s Executive Director Melissa Brown

- The group listened to a special presentation from Melissa Brown, Executive Director for the Buffalo History Museum regarding their collection of items that accumulated at the make-shift memorial outside the Tops on Jefferson Avenue shortly after the racially motivated mass shooting.
- Brown said her group was very concerned about the collection of items left at the grocery store in the make-shift memorial. She says they were worried that the winter weather could destroy the items.
- In light of this, the museum gathered the items and is holding them in stewardship for the community. They are not a part of the History Museum’s Permanent Collection.
- Reverend Blue proposed that the collection be included in the Commission’s Memorial.
- Brown stated that the museum would be happy to work with the Commission.

5/14 Survey Discussion

- Dr. Amitra Wall shared survey results and reported approximately 387 surveys have been completed.
- Dandes said the group needs to decide at what point enough information has been gathered. The group must start thinking about design as well.
- Survey closes on November 1st.

Memorial Discussion

- The group agreed the memorial should have a local component and preferably would be designed by a person of color. Legality of this was discussed and will be revisited.
- The group decided to move forward with producing an RFP before Nov. 1st.
- It was suggested 90 days should be given for an RFP response time.
- Adding a dollar amount to the RFP would give parameters for the people who are submitting.

5/14 Budget Discussion

- Reverend Blue said the commission needs to connect with Thomas Beauford Jr. for an update.
- Reverend Blue said we need a meeting regarding finance.
- Dandes said the commission needs a fundraising amount. He said the commission cannot fundraise without an amount and a view of what the memorial is going to be and where it is going to go. He said the commission is losing momentum.

Next Meeting

- September 18th Commission RFP Discussion, 5:30 p.m., Rich Products