



Beyond Apology Commission

Regular Meeting | September 19, 2025 | 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: TheRese Anderson Aduni, Phil Armstrong, Jacqueline Evans, Vanessa Hall-Harper, D'Marria Monday, Greg Taylor, Taylor West, Kristi Williams, Corinice Wilson, Damali Wilson

Commissioners Absent: Mattece Mason, Keith Mayes, Krystal Reyes

City of Tulsa Staff Present: Lexi Bollis, Dion'trae Hayes

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairwoman Williams called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

II. Ancestral Acknowledgement

- a. Commissioner Aduni led the Ancestral Acknowledgement.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to approve the August meeting minutes.
 - i. Councilor Hall-Harper made a motion, Commissioner Damali Wilson seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, August meeting minutes approved.

IV. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairwoman Williams shared that there was a town hall meeting on Monday about the Kirkpatrick-Greenwood Master Plan. Reminded commission that in August, BAC voted to support Councilwoman's position on the Greenwood Legacy CDC. Working to address community's feelings of exclusion in the process.
 - i. Commissioner Evans: Was it a success?
 - ii. Councilor Hall-Harper: Yes, raising awareness in the community is always good. Going to plan more ways to keep the community engaged.

V. Presentation from Chairwoman Williams: Strengthening Our Committees: Tools for Success

- a. Want commissioners to have the tools they need when inviting community members to join committees.
 - i. Quote from Ella Baker: "Strong people don't need strong leaders."
 - ii. Leadership is shared power, not control.
 - iii. Centering community is important.
- b. Why community matters:
 - i. Community birthed the Beyond Apology Report. Chairwoman Williams encouraged commissioners to refamiliarize themselves with the report.
 - ii. BAC wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the community.
 - iii. Community involvement brings credibility and trust to the commission.



- iv. Community trusted BAC with their vision, commissioners must trust them with their power.
- c. Committees will be the engine of BAC to get work done. Can't wait until the Greenwood Trust is up and running, must begin working in committees now.
- d. Commissioners are not just leaders, they are organizers connecting systems and community voices.
- e. Chairwoman Williams doesn't want committees to elect a chair until community has been seated on committees.
- f. Commissioner roles in committees:
 - i. Convenor: Create a welcoming, safe space.
 - ii. Learner: Listen deeply to community expertise.
 - iii. Bridge Builder: Connect government systems to grassroots voices.
 - iv. Accountable: Ensure transparency and follow-through.
- g. Chairwoman Williams distributed and reviewed committee pre-work document (Appendix 1), a power mapping document, and a committee work timeline (Appendix 2).
- h. Commission Discussion:
 - i. Vice Chair Corinice Wilson: How does this fit into the report we have to submit to Mayor Nichols on an annual basis? Asked for clarification that recommendations come from committees to BAC, then are recommended to Mayor Nichols. Chairwoman Williams confirmed this will be the process.
 - ii. Chairwoman Williams: Will have one big community meeting to report what BAC has been working on and offer a way to join committees.
 - 1. Commissioner Armstrong: Do we have the date, time, and location for the community meeting? It will help all commissioners to attend if they have advanced notice.
 - 2. Chairwoman Williams: Most likely will take place in the evening at Vernon. Will get back with commission with a couple dates to consider.
 - iii. Vice Chair Wilson asked if it is possible to expand the community window since it's currently slated close to Thanksgiving. Proposed that the window could expand into earlier November.
 - 1. Commissioner Armstrong noted that because of commissioners' varying schedules, the more we can be intentional about setting dates and sticking to them is very helpful. Don't want anyone's lack of attendance to be misinterpreted as disengaged. As much as possible, would like to have dates set well in advance.
 - 2. Commissioner Williams agreed the schedule can be adjusted.
 - iv. Commissioner Armstrong asked a clarifying question about the timing of the community meeting and deciding on the committee chair and co-chair roles. Chairwoman Williams clarified that committees should define what the roles will be, not who is in the role, by October 17.
 - 1. Commissioner Armstrong worried about work being disjointed if each committee defines roles differently. Could be helpful to have that be uniform across the committees.
 - 2. Chairwoman Williams shared she cares most about results and having strong reports at commission meetings. Happy to provide a standard role description that all committees will use.
 - v. Commissioner Armstrong asked questions about meeting venue, time, and restrictions. Lexi clarified that committees are not subject to the Open Meetings Act, as no committee



meeting will have a quorum of commissioners present. Therefore, committee meetings do not require prior public notice and can take place anywhere, including virtually.

1. Chairwoman Williams would prefer the first committee meeting is in person.

vi. Commissioner Monday confirmed that between now and October, the commissioners on each committee will get together. Pre-work is to look at the Beyond Apology Report and build off objectives from that report, then begin drafting items to bring to the community. Community members on committees will then help finalize.

- i. Commissioner Evans asked if the goal for the Greenwood Trust is still to have funds and be ready to distribute to the community by the end of 2026. Chairwoman Williams confirmed that is still the goal.
- j. Vice Chair Wilson shared that the Education Committee met and submitted a report. Commissioner Monday expressed her gratitude for the Education Committee setting the example.
- k. Commissioner Taylor noted that Cherokee Nation is on the power map and their tribal boundaries overlays all of North Tulsa. What is your experience with that relationship?
 - i. Chairwoman Williams thinks this is a great opportunity to work with the Cherokee Nation, as the tribe recognizes freedmen as tribal citizens.
- l. Chairwoman Williams knows commissioners will be excellent stewards of this work.

VI. Committee Reports – no reports

VII. Old Business

- a. Vice Chair Wilson asked for an update about the Reparations Conference in Evanston, and Lexi responded that she will follow up with Deputy Mayor Reyes to learn the current status of available funds for commissioners to attend.

VIII. New Business – no new business

IX. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Senior Poets Celebration tonight (7 pm) at Tulsa Fringe Festival at Dennis R Neill Equality Center.
- b. Vice Chair Wilson thanked commissioners who came to her event at Greenwood Rising.
- c. Black Contractors Association meeting (September 23).
- d. Councilor Hall-Harper has done an amazing job with Expungement Expos. There are 500+ people in Tulsa whose records have been expunged. Next expo is November 1.
- e. Butterfly AEffect Syndicate is having an event on November 1 as well.
- f. Re-Entry Simulation hosted by Tulsa Community College at Boston Avenue Methodist Church.
- g. Block Builderz: Community Centered Healing (October 9 at Generation of Destiny)

X. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Commissioner Armstrong made a motion, Vice Chair Wilson seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 10
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 2:11 pm.

Beyond Apology Commission: Commissioner Pre-Work Handout

The purpose of this pre-work is to prepare draft committee purposes, partner organizations, and role outlines before the October Commission meeting. These drafts will serve as starting points for discussion and will be finalized with community members in November.

Pre-Work Task	Details / Notes
Read Report	Review the Beyond Apology Report sections related to your committee.
Homework Worksheet	Complete stakeholder mapping, needs list, and possible partners.
Draft Purpose Statement	Write a 1–2 sentence statement of purpose for your committee.
Identify Partners	List at least 3–5 organizations or partners your committee should connect with.
Outline Roles	Propose chair/co-chair models, recorder, and liaison roles.

Due Date: All drafts must be ready to present at the October Commission Meeting (3rd Friday in October).

Reminder: These drafts are not final. They are working documents and will be revised and finalized with community input during the November joint Commission + Community meeting.

Beyond Apology Commission: Committee Work Plan & Timeline

Goal

Committees complete internal pre-work by the next Commission meeting (3rd Friday in October). Community members officially invited and seated at a joint Commission + Community meeting in mid-November 2025.

1. September – Early October (Now until Oct 15): Commissioner Pre-Work

- Review Beyond Apology Report recommendations.
- Complete homework: map stakeholders, identify partner orgs, draft starting committee purposes.
- Agree on possible chair/co-chair models (co-chair, elected, commissioner + community pairing).

2. Mid-October (By 3rd Friday, Oct 17, 2025): Committees Report Back

- Each committee submits:
 - Draft purpose statement.
 - List of suggested community partners/organizations.
 - Outline of needed roles (chair, recorder, liaison).
- Commissioners present drafts at the October Commission Meeting.
- Drafts are working documents — not final until community weighs in.

3. Mid-November (Target: Nov 14–21, 2025): Community + Commission Joint Meeting

- Public event to introduce committees.
- Share committee drafts with the community.
- Invite community members to join and immediately begin participation.
- Revise committee purposes with community input.
- Formally seat community members and confirm next steps.
- Message: “Committees are now open — community is at the table.”

At a Glance Timeline

Timeline	Milestone
Now – Oct 15	Commissioner homework + prep
Oct 17 (3rd Friday)	Committees present drafts at Commission Meeting
Mid-November	Joint Community + Commission meeting → committees open