

Memorials Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 26, 2011

3:30 P.M.

2nd Floor Conference Room

City Hall

715 Princess Anne Street

Fredericksburg, Virginia

The Memorials Advisory Commission of the City of Fredericksburg met on Wednesday, October 26, 2011, beginning at 3:39 p.m. in the second-floor conference room of City Hall.

Commission Attendees:

Emerson, Claudia	Absent
Garnett, Richard	Present
Huff, Benjamin Josiah	Absent
Lloyd, Marilyn Holasek	Present
Moore, Nancy	Present
Pates, Jim – Chair	Present
Warlick, Conrad	Present

Election of Secretary: Since the Secretary, Commissioner J. Pederson, recently resigned and Commissioner Emerson had previously agreed to serve as the Acting Secretary, the latter was elected by unanimous consent to fill the unexpired term of Secretary.

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the May 16, 2011 meeting were approved by unanimous consent. In the absence of the Secretary, Commissioner Lloyd agreed to serve as Acting Secretary for today's meeting.

Old Business:

Wall of Honor – There was general discussion about the Wall of Honor ceremony held on September 13, 2011, in Council chambers. Chairman Pates asked for suggestions on how the ceremony could be improved or changed for next year. Among the suggested changes:

- To have a more formal ceremony;
- To provide more advanced notice to the public and participants;

- To offer refreshments;
- To present the nominators and families with certificates;
- To secure a news article in the newspaper about the honorees; and
- To modify the nomination form to include the Commission's criteria for selecting nominees.

Chairman Pates asked for a volunteer to be in charge of the Wall of Honor selection process and ceremony for 2012. Commissioner Garnett graciously volunteered and was designated as the chair of next year's Wall of Honor ceremony.

Welcome Nancy Moore as Commissioner – The Commission welcomed Nancy Moore as its newest member. She will serve a four-year term.

Mary Washington Monument Property - Chairman Pates updated the Commission on the Mary Washington Monument property. He indicated that he had had discussions with City Manager Cameron and Councilor Paolucci, who had placed an item on the Council Agenda to abolish the defunct Advisory Board of Regents of the Mary Washington Monument and transfer its responsibilities to the Commission. He said that the only concerns that he had encountered about the proposed ordinance were from the City's Director of Parks, Recreation & Public Facilities. Chairman Pates further reported that the City Attorney had prepared the draft ordinance for Council consideration and that he would alert the Commission when the draft ordinance was scheduled for Council consideration.

Commissioner Garnett offered to contact the City Manager in support of the ordinance. It was agreed that the Commission would also want to confer with the Director of Parks and Recreation to make clear that the Commission seeks to work cooperatively with the Recreation Commission regarding the property.

Memorials Fund – At the last meeting, the Commission had briefly discussed the possibility of creating a Memorials Fund to solicit donations and use them to support the Commission's work. The issue was discussed, with the general consensus being that the idea warranted further consideration; Commissioner Lloyd volunteered to prepare a proposal for the group's consideration. It was noted that the Commission has broad authority to devise ways of honoring persons, places, and events in the City's history and that it could solicit private donations through the funding of improvements on City property, such as benches, trees, and brick sidewalks.

Street-Naming Process – This was postponed until a later meeting.

Civil Rights Memorial - The Commission welcomed Mr. Clarence Robinson and Ms. Marguerite Young to discuss a possible Civil Rights Memorial or event to honor local civil rights activists. There was a general discussion about the need and purpose of commemorating these important local events and individuals, including a need to record oral histories on tape or to transcribe them for posterity. It was agreed that Mr. Robinson and Ms. Young would meet with other interested persons in the community for a "brainstorming" session and report back to the Commission.

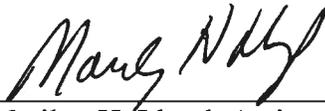
Irish Brigade Monument – City Council recently referred to the Commission the question whether the City should designate the marker recently installed at City Dock as a “war memorial.” After general discussion, Commissioner Warlick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Garnett, to recommend that the City not designate the marker as a permanent war memorial, since the City may wish to make use of this location for other public purposes at some future time. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Pates indicated that he would send a letter to Council with the Commission’s recommendation.

New Business:

Historical Markers – Chairman Pates raised the issue of seeking an inventory of the numerous historical panels placed on City property throughout town. He indicated that he would contact City officials to see whether such an inventory existed or could be obtained. Commissioner Moore noted that some of the markers were in poor condition and offered to contact the City staff to learn how they could be rehabilitated.

Next Meeting Scheduled - The next meeting was scheduled for 18 January 2012, at a time to be determined.

Meeting Adjourned - There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



Marilyn H. Lloyd, Acting Secretary