



Memorials Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 15, 2010
3:30 P.M.
2nd Floor Conference Room
City Hall
715 Princess Anne Street

The Memorials Advisory Commission met Wednesday, December 15, 2010, beginning at 3:40 p.m. in the conference room of City Hall.

Commission Attendees:

Emerson, Claudia	Present
Garnett, Richard	Present
Huff, Benjamin Josiah	Present
Lloyd, Marilyn Holasek	Present
McDaniel, Richmond	Absent
Pates, Jim	Present
Pederson, Debbie	Absent
Pederson, Jerry	Absent
Warlick, Conrad	Present

Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Warlick moved approval of the May 12, 2010 minutes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Huff and passed unanimously. Since the Commission secretary, Jerry Pedersen was absent, Council Clerk Tonya Lacey volunteered to take minutes for this meeting.

Discussion of Street-Naming Process - Chairman Pates stated that he thought someone had volunteered to send a letter to City Council, to date however, no letter had been drafted and Mr. Pates asked a volunteer to write the letter and Commissioner Lloyd volunteered to contact Commissioner D. Pederson and offered to work with her to write the letter requesting permission to allow the Memorials Commission to have a role in the naming of public streets. To date, however, the letter has not been drafted and Mr. Pates asked for a volunteer to write the letter. Commissioner Lloyd volunteered to contact Commissioner Pederson and work with her to write the letter. Mr. Warlick stated that this would be a great way to honor people.

Wall of Honor Criteria – Chairman Pates stated that he had received a draft of new criteria for naming individuals to the Wall of Honor, but he wasn't sure where they had come from. At the last meeting, Commissioner Deb Pederson volunteered to work on the criteria requirements with Commissioner McDaniel to present at the next Memorials meeting. Chairman Pates asked if someone would follow-up on this task and have the criteria ready at least two weeks before the next meeting. Vice-Chairman Huff agreed to contact Deb Pedersen to draft the criteria.

Commissioner Warlick mentioned that he would like to see more contemporary people honored, rather than centuries-old individuals. The reasoning was that people should be able to remember who the person was, what they did, and still have family members around to be recognized on the deceased person's behalf. Other criteria the Commission would like to see included: (1) that a person be nominated by someone other than a family member, and (2) that the person not be required to have been a Fredericksburg citizen but simply have contributed to the well-being of the City. Commissioner Lloyd suggested changing the requirement that an honoree have been deceased for at least five years because that was too long to wait to recognize someone. Commissioners Garnett & Warlick agreed.

Chairman Pates suggested running the notice soliciting Wall of Honor nominations on the local government television channel to see if this would help to get more applications submitted. He also thought the Commission members themselves should submit names of people to be honored. Commissioner Warlick suggested former Mary Washington College president Prince Woodard, who also served as Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, started the Fredericksburg Community Orchestra and made several other contributions to the City. He also suggested Sydney Armstrong. Chairman Pates suggested Judge John Butzner, who started out in the City as the City Attorney and went on to serve a distinguished career on the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Commissioner Garnett suggested Dr. Robert Caverlee, pastor of Fredericksburg Baptist Church.

Chairman Pates read a letter received from Ruth Fitzgerald, requesting that the Commission reconsider the nomination of James Marye.

Mary Washington Monument – Chairman Pates reported that he had researched minutes from the City Council Meeting of November 28, 2000, where a motion was made to reconstitute the Advisory Board of Regents of the Mary Washington Monument by turning over its responsibilities to the Memorials Advisory Commission and that one additional member be added to the commission. Apparently, this action of Council was never carried out. The Commission discussed the terrible condition of the Gordon family cemetery located right next to the monument on the property. It was also noted that there were no markers to tell visitors about the history or significance of the

site. They also discussed the house on the property known as "the Lodge" and its use and condition. Discussion ensued on who was occupying the home and Commissioner Garnett said he would inquire whether someone was currently occupying the home.

Chairman Pates suggested sending a letter to City Council to carry out the motion that was made 10 years ago. He felt the Commission could do a great service by helping to keep up this important historical site. He also suggested the Commission could raise money to maintain the property and make improvements. It was agreed that Chairman Pates would transmit a letter to Council recommending that the November 28, 2000 action of Council be implemented by amending the City Code to transfer the legal responsibilities of the Advisory Board of Regents to the Memorials Advisory Commission and that this be achieved by the appropriate City Code amendment.

Commemorating People – Chairman Pates asked if anyone had any ideas on other ways to commemorate people who had made notable contributions to the City. Commissioner Garnett suggested that Riverside Park would be a great opportunity for people to commemorate outstanding individuals and said that people could donate items in memory of loved ones. Chairman Pates said he would talk to City Manager Beverly Cameron about possibly offering people other ways to commemorate such individuals on City properties. He said this would also a great way to raise funds for such memorials.

Meeting Schedule – The meeting schedule was set for the next year. The dates are January 19, April 20 (selection for Wall of Honor), September 21, and November 16 at 3:30 PM.

Election of Officer – Commission Warlick moved to keep the same officers; motion was seconded by Commissioner Garnett and passed unanimously.
Jim Pates, Chairman
Benjamin Huff, Vice-Chair
Jerry Pederson, Secretary.

Adjourn Meeting. There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was declared to be officially adjourned at 4:50 p.m.



Gerald Pederson

Claudia Emerson, Acting

