



Memorials Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

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, June 19, 2013, beginning at 3:45 p.m., in the second-floor conference room of City Hall.

Commission Attendees:

Huff, Benjamin Josiah Chair	Present
Pates, Jim	Present
Lloyd, Marilyn Holasek	Present
Warlick, Conrad	Present
Moore, Nancy	Present
Spencer, Michael	Present
Massey, Betty	Present

Guest Attendees: Erik Nelson, Roy Perry, Marguerite Young, Xavier Richardson, and Clarence Robinson

Commission Business:

Introduction of Betty Massey: By Chairman Huff to the committee.

Mother's Day Program: Was applauded as a successful endeavor planned by Nancy Moore and Marilyn Lloyd.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of April 3, 2013 were unanimously approved.

New Business:

Memorial Plaque--The Heights at Smith Run

Roy Perry member of The Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV's) Matthew Fontaine Maury Camp No. 1722 spoke with Erik Nelson, Senior Planner with the Fredericksburg Planning and Community Development Department and also a local historian concerning a memorial plaque. This plaque, entitled The Heights at Smith Run 1863, is in memory of The Battle of Smith Run and the Confederate soldiers who died there. The placement of the plaque was to be on Cowan

Boulevard near the Smith Run trail. A picture was shown of the park bench on Cowan Blvd. near where the plaque would stand.

After Roy Perry outlined the plan for the memorial plaque there was much discussion on the subject.

Jim Pates said that while he appreciated the efforts of the SCV to commemorate the fighting at Smith Run, he had concerns about the City appearing to endorse a particular viewpoint of the Civil War or to endorse any particular group. Nancy Moore mentioned that the writing on the plaque possibly misrepresented the battle. Another issue was the number of the men fallen at this site compared to all the Federal losses.

Eric Nelson said an “optimal interpretation of the site would be 3-5 panels” of explanation of this battle.

Marilyn Lloyd asked for an overview of the battle on May 4. Eric explained some of the maneuvers of the troop that day, however time was limited.

The SCV designed and funded this memorial plaque. Roy Perry said he wants this to be a Memorial and a balanced interpretation from the other panels

But right now there is no plan for more panels by the city or the SCV.

Michael Spencer said there should be a “balance of all our approaches with the facts.”

Jim Pates made a motion that we defer this to our next meeting (Aug 21) while Roy Perry and the city staff come back with a package and proposal of how to memorialize and interpret the site. Nancy Moore seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The committee applauded Roy Perry, Eric Nelson, and the SCV for their effort. Roy and Eric will work together on this before our next meeting.

Old Business:

Update on Civil Rights Memorial Commemoration:

Marguerite Young, Xavier Richardson and Clarence Robinson attended the meeting to give us an overview of their thoughts on commemorating the Civil Rights movement in Fredericksburg.

The Commission members expressed a desire to do something not only to commemorate the Fredericksburg Civil Rights movement, but also to recognize its impact on the community and was open to all different kinds of suggestions and discussions.

So this was the preliminary suggestions of some of the different avenues it can take from plaques to parades to decide how to move forward.

Xavier Richardson thanked us for the opportunity and said they (the informal committee of himself, Marguerite and Clarence) will give the commission some ideas and concepts and welcomed comments, questions, and input. The following dialogues are the ideas from Xavier, Marguerite and Clarence along with questions and comments by the commission.

They viewed this commemoration as a multi-faceted yearly event. The name could be Civil Right Movement of Fredericksburg, a Civil Movement.

The reason for the title is that we had a civil movement here. We didn't have the massive resistance. Reverend Davies was instrumental in that effort with those who wanted discontent.

He said there were unsung heroes and they would propose a series of steps in recognizing the movement. The first step would be an overview of the Civil Rights movement in the city. The next year, perhaps the churches would be recognized for their instrumental role with both positive and negative results. Some of the churches did spin off during the movement. The next year could be perhaps a study of the black and white leaders who made a difference, yet even more unsung heroes. Another sector of commemoration would be the educational system. In this sector a lot of things were happening in the schools and in the universities. Then many of the firsts needed to be remembered: The first African American city councilman and mayor. Clarence Robinson's contributions as a city employee, Marguerite Young's school administration.

Then perhaps a mural or panel could give an overview of the movement, and with every subsequent year and part, a new panel could be placed in public buildings. So then the end result would be a destination and place of interest. See the panel on leaders. See the panel on churches etc. Groups would come for history tours and family reunions.

"Each year another component would roll out with a physical panel and panel discussion," Clarence Robinson said. The focus would be inclusion of the whole community, and a "pay it forward," focus. All races made the Civil Rights movement in Fredericksburg a success.

It was mentioned that because the focus was on EDUCATION perhaps an annual booklet, or book, or even a website including electronic media would be a result of these efforts.

Xavier, Marguerite, and Clarence see this commemoration as a fantastic opportunity as did the commission.

They would like to see something proceed this year since the voting rights act was 50 years ago. This project is going to require money and connection with interns perhaps at the college for developmental work. Michael Spencer said he could help with that.

The Free Lance-Star has documentation. HFFI is looking for journal articles and that would be a great theme. Jim Pates said, "He liked the themes of the project and the ambition and scope."

The commission is focused on physical ways of commemorating this. The Courthouse could do something on Civil Rights.

When the plan is established, then a report will be made to council about what the commission has in mind.

Marilyn Lloyd mentioned making sure the live interviews were recorded as soon as possible for posterity.

It was mentioned to get Richard Garnett involved. Michael Spencer, Nancy Moore and Jim Pates volunteered to form a subcommittee.

Xavier Richardson thanked the commission on behalf of his informal group.

Wall of Honor:

We discussed again having an annotated bibliography written about all the people on the wall of honor that could be read while the people were viewing the wall of honor. Some research would be needed for this and it was noted that the paperwork has been lost.

New Business:

It was mentioned that the website needed updating.

Next Meeting Scheduled: Wednesday, August 21, 2013

Meeting Adjourned: There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30p.m.

Marilyn Holasek Lloyd, Secretary