



Memorials Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

3:30 P.M.

Council Chambers
City Hall

715 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia

The Memorials Advisory Commission of the City of Fredericksburg met on Wednesday, August 21, 2013, beginning at 3:45 p.m., in the second-floor conference room of City Hall.

Commission Attendees:

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

Minutes:

Minutes from Aug. 21, 2013, will be approved at the next meeting.

Old Business:

City Memorials Fund and Budget: Jim Pates discussed general ideas for a commission budget, including potential revenue from donations, grants, rentals and shifts from other city accounts. Expenditures may include funds for a Mother's Day ceremony at the Mary Washington Monument, a master plan for the monument site, historical markers and the Wall of Honor ceremony.

Mr. Pates agreed to prepare a proposal for an EDA grant to fund a master plan for the monument. The commission will discuss the proposal at its next meeting.

Civil Rights Memorial Commemoration: The commission is waiting to hear specifics about the proposal.

New Business:

Wall of Honor Applications: Nominations for T. Stacy Lloyd and Butler Franklin will be presented to City Council at its Oct. 8 meeting. A nomination for Prince Woodard was withdrawn.

Proposal by Sons of Confederate Veterans for Smith Run Battlefield Monument:

The commission, at its last meeting, voted against recommending approval of the monument at this time, referring the issue for further discussion. The commission had suggested that the SCV find an alternate site on private property. Erik Nelson reported that the adjacent landowner had rejected the request. He also provided the commission with a list of donors to the SCV monument.

The commission expressed concerns about approving war memorials on city-owned property, especially when the city had not provided any interpretive panels.

Michael Spencer suggested that the city seek public input (e.g., public hearings) before approving private memorials on city property. Nancy Moore noted that the National Park Service has a moratorium on Civil War battlefield monuments--unless a state asks for one. The local battlefield park has a written policy setting requirements for any monument that is erected.

Jim Pates offered a motion, directing the acting chairman to draft a letter to the City Council, conveying the August vote recommending against the proposed monument, commending the SCV for its effort to interpret the Smith Run site, and encouraging the city itself to install signage or provide other interpretation of the battlefield. The commission would also consider recommending a general City policy on the approval of privately sponsored monuments on City property. The motion was seconded by Garnett Parker and passed unanimously.

Riverfront Park: Jim Pates suggested that the Commission offer to work with the Fredericksburg Arts Commission in planning public art for the Riverfront Park. It was agreed that the acting chairman would contact the City Manager to offer the Commission's services on the riverfront project.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.