



Memorials Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

4:00 P.M.

Second Floor Conference Room

City Hall

715 Princess Anne Street

Fredericksburg, Virginia

The Memorials Advisory Commission of the City of Fredericksburg met on Wednesday, February 18, beginning at 3:30 p.m., in the second floor conference room of City Hall.

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Moore, Nancy Chair	Present
Lloyd, Marilyn Holasek	Present
Spencer, Michael	Present
Parker, Garnett	Present
Massey, Betty	Present
Hairston, Jervis	Present
Raudenbush, Paula	Present
Susan Spears	Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of September, November 19, 2014, were unanimously approved.

INTRODUCTION OF SUSAN SPEARS

Susan Spears was again introduced as our newest member.

OLD BUSINESS:

Name for New Fall Hill Ave Bridge

The Commission revisited the naming of the Fall Hill Ave. canal bridge since the City Council tabled the Franklin Family Bridge proposal on Jan. 13, 2015. Realizing that there will be a Butler Brayne Franklin Park, the commission revisited Bill Micks' original proposal. He proposed the bridge be named for Bess Turk who donated land for the park and an easement to the Friends of the Rappahannock.

Michael Spencer made the motion that the commission withdrew its previous recommendation for naming of the road bridge, and to name the new pedestrian footbridge across the canal for Bess Turk. The motion was seconded by Paula Raudenbush, and the vote was unanimous.

Mary Washington Monument Update

Commission Chairman Nancy Moore will meet with representatives of the Garden Club of Virginia on Feb. 24 to discuss the need for interpretive signs and safer access to Meditation Rock at the rear edge of the monument property. She will also confer with Mike Ward of city staff to discuss clearing the slope behind the monument property.

The city manager said he and his staff are not ready to offer the Caretaker's Cottage on the Monument site for rent.

Memorials Policy

Commissioner Michael Spencer presented a comprehensive rough draft proposal of the "Policy on New Monuments and Interpretive Signage." He went through the four-page comprehensive proposal with the commission both explaining the proposal and asking for suggestions from the commission. Commissioners Michael Spencer and Paula Raudenbush, will continue to work on the draft of this proposal.

Civil Rights Programs

Nancy Moore reported that the Central Rappahannock Regional Library would be willing to help the commission sponsor a Civil Rights program in 2016. Events could be held in the downtown library auditorium.

Wall of Honor

The call for the new nominations for the Wall of Honor will be sent to The Free Lance-Star, The Central Rappahannock Heritage Center and the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation.

Smith Run Update

Nancy Moore, will consult with Erik Nelson on the additional panels for Smith Run.

NEW BUSINESS

Naming a Road for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Commission considered City Council's request to review a proposal to rename Fall Hill Ave for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

There was extensive discussion on this subject. Commissioner, Marilyn Lloyd pointed out that honoring Fredericksburg's history was of the outmost importance in this decision.

It was discussed by all the commissioners that the change of address problems would be huge for the homes and businesses on Fall Hill Avenue. It was noted that the road runs past the historic Fall Hill estate and the fall line of the Rappahannock River.

Commissioner Jervis Hairston pointed out that Martin Luther King, Jr's contributions were of the utmost importance in his life and the lives of so many others.

The Blue and Gray Parkway was discussed. For Jervis, the Parkway name and its Civil War connotations brought up uncomfortable feelings. Nancy Moore pointed out that the Parkway did not have businesses that would need a name change. Marilyn Lloyd pointed out that The Blue and Gray Parkway was named by former members of this commission, and she would be against it because that would be changing history. Michael Spencer said names of streets are changed. And Susan Spears added why would we tamper with this controversial name change?

As an alternative, the commission discussed naming the proposed Fall Hill Ave bridge over Interstate 95 after Martin Luther King Jr. Jervis Hairston noted that Martin Luther King Jr. was a "bridge builder." The commission would hope the signs could be placed so passersby on both Fall Hill Ave and Interstate 95 could see them.

Susan Spears made the following motion: "As the former founder/president of MORE (Multicultural Outreach Effort), who proudly hosted an annual celebration event for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for eight years, it is my honor to make the motion that we recommend to City Council to name the new Fall Hill Avenue bridge after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a true bridge-builder who changed our nation." The motion was seconded by Betty Massey. The vote was unanimous.

Memorial Tree Request

The commission had received a request to plant a Memorial Tree at Old Mill Park. Nancy Moore met on Feb. 13 with Mike Ward (Parks & Recreation Department) Ann Little (Clean and Green Commission) and Nick Cadwallender of Plants Map to discuss ways to handle such requests. Plants Map has offered to work with the city to create a virtual tree memorial. Mike Ward agreed to write a memorial tree policy for commission review. He also said that requests for memorial trees on park land are handled by the city Parks and Recreation Department.

Commission Vacancy

Nancy Moore said that there is one vacancy on the Memorial Advisory Commission.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Marilyn Holasek Lloyd, Secretary