



Memorials Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 715 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA

Commission Members Present: Nancy Moore, Chair, Michael Spencer, Betty Massey, Jervis Hairston, Paula Raudenbush, Garnett Parker, Susan Spears, City Rep. Tonya Lacey

Commission Members Absent: Marilyn Lloyd

Chair Nancy Moore called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Paula Raudenbush moved to approve the minutes from January 20, 2016. Betty Massey seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

To accommodate a presentation by guest speakers, Nancy started the meeting with

New Business:

City Planner, Erik Nelson, introduced Edward Haile and Connie Lapallo, volunteers with the Chesapeake Conservancy, who presented a proposal to place granite markers along the route John Smith took up the Rappahannock River in 1608. Two of these markers are suggested for our area, one at Belmont in Stafford County, and one in Fredericksburg on the walking trail near the former site of the Embrey Dam. Plans for this project include placing these markers at 24 places in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, commemorating all the stops made by Smith. More information about this proposal is attached.

The site for the marker for Fredericksburg, a 6"x6"x2' granite plinth (buried in concrete so that only about 1' is above ground), is based on Smith's journal where he indicates that his ship went aground near the current Route 1 bridge on the Falmouth side of the Rappahannock. The English then either waded or took the shallop across to the Fredericksburg side near Fall Hill. Because Smith marked his map with a Maltese cross, this same symbol will be engraved on the top of the plinth with his name and 1602 on the side. Michael Spencer commented that we need to be careful to state that the site is approximate since the actual site is unknown. Nancy suggested a narrative interpretive sign be erected near the entrance to the walking path. Mr. Nelson agreed. Paula Raudenbush asked what would keep people from thinking this was a

burial maker, given the name, date and cross engravings. Mr. Haile joked that we should exploit that misunderstanding, but no one seemed overly concerned that it would be a problem. Ms. Lapallo explained that there would be no cost to the City; the Chesapeake Conservancy is paying for everything except the city staff to install it. She also stated that the CC is available to assist with any marketing we wish to do in relation to the marker. After a bit more discussion, Susan Spears made a motion that we recommend to City Council that they approve the installation of the John Smith marker on the path near Fall Hill and that an interpretive sign be erected at the entrance to the path to explain the marker. Betty Massey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Nancy will draft a letter to City Council with the committee's recommendation. Mr. Haile and Ms. Lapallo were thanked for their presentation.

Old Business:

Update on Signage at Mary Washington Monument. Nancy informed us that she had spoken with Kitty Waffle and the Garden Club of Virginia is editing the brochure that Nancy wrote and Mrs. Waffle hopes to be able to bring back the new signs from their upcoming meeting. It is hoped that these signs will be installed before Garden Day on Tuesday, April 26.

Caretaker's Cottage Construction Report. Nancy reported that the city staff is improving the kitchen, painting upstairs, and installing new cabinets and flooring. The City has agreed to allow one of the City's department heads to stay in the cottage for a period of time.

Wall of Honor Deadline, Nominees, Plaques. The Committee has received the following nomination: Barbara Crookshanks. A notice appeared in The Free Lance-Star this week so more should be coming. Nancy would like the Committee to select/approve the 2016 nominees at the next meeting. Tonya is currently typing up the past names to send off for new plaques.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, at 4:00 p.m.

Paula Raudenbush, Recording Secretary