



Memorials Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2018

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

Commission Members Present: Nancy Moore, Michael Spencer, Jervis Hairston, Betty Massey, Tina Morris, John Lyle, Paula Raudenbush

Commission Members Absent: Susan Spears

Chair Nancy Moore called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Betty Massey moved to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2018, meeting. Michael Spencer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Report on the Caretaker's Cottage

Nancy Moore reported that the City Manager is still considering recommending to City Council that, instead of selling the cottage outright, they send out a Request for Information to non-profits for use of the cottage.

Michael Spencer reported on a recent meeting between himself, City Councilman Matt Kelly, Superintendent of local NPS Kirsten Talken-Spaulling, and John Gerlach who discussed a proposal to create an endowment from the sale of the Caretaker's Cottage to create grants for local historic preservation projects. Michael will write up the proposal and circulate it to the Memorial Advisory Commission members.

Nancy noted that the free-standing city interpretive panels are deteriorating. Tina Morris volunteered to document/photograph all the panels to assess the deterioration of each one. Nancy will provide her with a list of all the panels in the city.

Update on Slave Auction Block and interpreting the city's African-American history

The City will begin a second round of talks with the public on Sept 24th and 25th to review concepts of interpretation. The Commission members are encouraged to attend.

Nancy reported on a manuscript by Ruth Fitzgerald for a young-adult novel based on Mrs. Fitzgerald's research on the Fredericksburg African-American community. Nancy is spearheading an effort to get this manuscript published. Commission members discussed potential ways this book could be used as a fund raiser.

New Business

Request for Memorial for Link Wray

Nancy reported that there has been a recent request to commemorate the song "Rumble" composed by American Indian and rock guitarist Link Wray at a hop in Fredericksburg in the 1960s. Nancy believes that this story is too big for a single plaque and recommended that the Commission take a broader look at the interpretation of this and the city's history in general. No vote or recommendation was made by the members at this time.

Wall of Honor Ceremony for Lem Houston and Anne Rowe

The ceremony will take place prior to the City Council meeting on October 9, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. Nancy will present Lem Houston and Jervis Hairston will present Anne Rowe. Commission members are encouraged to attend. Invitation attached.

New Commission Members

Nancy requested the members think about additional members to the Commission and give her any suggestions.

2019 Meeting Schedule

It was determined that the Commission should meet quarterly rather than every other month. The 2019 dates are:

January 16

April 17

July 17

October 16

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Raudenbush". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Paula Raudenbush, recording secretary