



## **Memorials Advisory Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

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

**Commission Members Present:** Nancy Moore, Michael Spencer, Betty Massey, Tina Morris, Pauline Felder, Paula Raudenbush

**Commission Members Absent:** Jervis Hairston, Susan Spears, John Lyles

Chair Nancy Moore called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Betty Massey moved to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2019, meeting. Michael Spencer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Old Business**

##### **Update on Historic Panels Improvements**

Nancy reported that Erik Nelson said there are plans to replace 10 panels in 2019 (ones from 2012 and 2014). Nancy suggested that the Commission members request that the city to clean the panels once a year. Pauline made a motion, seconded by Tina, and it passed unanimously. The complete historic panels list is attached.

##### **Status of Proposed Sale of Caretaker's Cottage**

Nancy reported that Bill Freehling had asked "stakeholders" if anyone was interested in using the cottage. These were UMW, The Heritage Foundation, The George Washington Foundation, NPS, among others. No one expressed an interest. The City Council will revisit the Commission recommendation to sell the cottage with the restrictions requested in the letter sent to council previously.

##### **Update on Conditions at Meditation Rock and the Mary Washington Monument property**

(See attached report). This is an expensive undertaking and limited funds are currently being sought by the Eskridge Family (whose ancestors planted the Eskridge Oak which is also in danger). There was discussion about other possible benefactors such as the Garden Club of Virginia, The Stuart Jones Charitable Trust, and the Duff Green Foundation.

##### **Status of plan for Downtown and surrounding area**

Michael Craig is still writing the report.

## **New Business**

### **Interpretation of Slave Block History**

Pauline Felder reported that she and her husband are working on a phone app that can tell the stories of the Slave Block no matter where it ends up. They are considering a pilot program about the Slave Block and the tunnels under the building on the southwest corner of George and Caroline Streets. They will then use this to raise funds for the larger project. There was some discussion about people she could talk to for more stories such as Gaye Adgebalola, Jervis Hairston, Dovetail archaeologists, and John Hennessy. Nancy mentioned that there is a lot of information on the web at Fredericksburg Remembered and Mysteries and Conundrums. The Commission members voiced approval for the project.

### **Wall of Honor update**

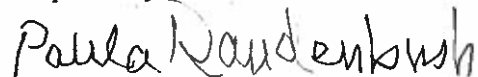
Nancy presented the new language for the request for nominees (attached) and everyone was encouraged to share it. She also reported that the documentation of those already honored is moving forward with her intern from UMW.

### **Possible change in meeting dates and time**

Michael requested that we change our meeting date/time due to his conflicting schedule. All present approved either date that was presented and Nancy will get input from those absent. The dates for the 2019 meetings will be announced prior to the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Raudenbush, recording secretary