



## **Memorials Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

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

**Commission Members Present:** Nancy Moore, Michael Spencer, Pauline Felder, Jervis Hairston, Susan Spears, John Lyles, Tina Morris, Betty Massey, Paula Raudenbush

**Guests Present:** Steve Hanna, Ed Jones, Sarah Poore, Kate Schwartz

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

### **Commission Meeting Minutes**

Michael Spencer made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 17 and June 5, 2019 meetings. Betty Massey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Interpreting Fredericksburg's African American History**

Michael Spencer introduced Steve Hanna, Professor of Geography at UMW, who presented his research involving memorials and interpretive signage in the City of Fredericksburg. See attached.

Nancy Moore and Sarah Poore, Director of the Fredericksburg Area Museum, have been talking about ways the museum and the Memorials Commission can work together to prevent duplicating efforts. Sarah Poore said that the interpretation of the Slave Auction Block will be an ongoing project for probably the next three years.

Nancy Moore reminded the Commission that City Manager Tim Baroody would very much like to see something done soon. With that in mind, she suggested that an interpretive panel based on the story of the DeBaptiste family be something that could be done quickly since the research has already been done. She also commented on the quality of the video being shown at the Visitor Center and suggested that a better one be made. Most of the members of the Commission felt that the video was less than satisfactory and agreed it should be replaced. Tina Morris suggested that it might be more effective to have several videos on different topics at different times in the City's history. Visitors could choose to watch the ones that interested them.

Nancy Moore suggested a possible interpretive sign or marker for the Planter's Hotel which was on the corner where the Slave Auction Block is located. See attached.

Michael Spencer talked about the process he has drafted to guide the committees for researching and implementing the African American stories. See attached.

Nancy Moore suggested Pam Bridgewater as someone who might be a good facilitator to lead focus groups. Sarah Poore also suggested Paula Royster and Nancy agreed to contact her.

Nancy also mentioned that we might have a problem with FOIA because anytime 3 or more members of a city committee meet for any reason, they must announce it in a public notice. This would be unwieldy at

best and would hinder research. Sarah Poore said that she thought the Museum could set up the committees, thus avoiding any need for public notices.

Sarah also said that she felt we should start with taking a look at the Trolley Tours and the Heritage Tours since they are in need of updating and including more of the African American stories.

She also suggested the committee get the information from the consultants' focus groups so we don't reinvent the wheel.

**Wall of Honor Nominees**

Nancy presented the list of nominees for the next Wall of Honor candidates. After some discussion, Betty Massey moved, and Jervis Hairston seconded that Weldon Bailey be accepted. Motion passed unanimously. Pauline Felder moved, and Betty Massey seconded that Lloyd F. Moss, Sr. be accepted. Motion passed unanimously. Jervis Hairston moved, and Betty Massey seconded that Barbara Terry be accepted. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be Thursday September 19 at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Raudenbush". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P".

Paula Raudenbush, recording secretary