



MOTION: DEVINE

SECOND: GRAHAM

RE: Creating the Renwick Complex Working Group and Appointing Members

ACTION: APPROVED: Ayes: 7; Nays: 0

**June 13, 2023
Regular Meeting
Resolution 23-48**

The future use, preservation, and rehabilitation of the Renwick Complex, comprised of the Renwick Courthouse, Wallace Library, and Jail, is of great interest to the City Council and residents of Fredericksburg. The Renwick Courthouse is arguably the most architecturally significant building in downtown Fredericksburg, designed by one of the nation's most celebrated 19th-century architects. The building anchors a three-building site at the corner of Princess Anne and George streets, and plays a crucial role in Fredericksburg's history. The Wallace Library – Fredericksburg's first permanent public library, was built half a century after the Courthouse, completed in 1909. There has been a jail on this site since the mid-1700s, a century before the Courthouse.

City Council desires to establish a working group to advance the planning for the future of the Renwick Courthouse, Wallace Library, and Jail.

Therefore, the City Council hereby resolves that:

- It establishes the Renwick Complex Working Group as an advisory committee.
- The Working Group shall have 11 members, consisting of two members of City Council (appointed by City Council) and one member each from the following organizations (to be appointed by the organization):
 - National Park Service
 - University of Mary Washington
 - Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc.
 - Economic Development Authority
 - Arts Commission
 - Fredericksburg Main Street
 - Architectural Review Board
- In addition, the Working Group shall have one member from the financial/lending business sector and the historic preservation contractor business sector, to be recommended by staff and approved by the two City Councilors appointed to this Working Group.

- The task of the Working Group will be to review recent studies of the property, including the 2016 Commonwealth Architects Historic Structure Report, the 2019 Frazier Associates/CLUE Group Marketing and Architectural Feasibility Study, the May 23, 2023 Commonwealth Preservation Group presentation, and such other helpful and informative resources as the members may identify.
- Working with City staff and such consultants as are hired for this purpose, the Working Group will develop a community engagement plan, study options for repositioning the property, and develop specific recommendations for the future use, preservation, and rehabilitation of the historic buildings and site.
- The City Council appoints Matthew Kelly and Jonathan Gerlach as members of the Working Group to serve for a term of one year or until their successors are appointed.
- The Working Group is a “public body” subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and an “advisory agency” under the Virginia State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act.
- Council asks the Working Group to regularly update Council on its activities, and to make a formal progress report no later than December 12, 2023.

Votes:

Ayes: Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Graham, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: Gerlach

Absent from Vote: None

Absent from Meeting: None

Clerk's Certificate

I certify that I am Clerk of Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 23-48, adopted at a meeting of the City Council held June 13, 2023, at which a quorum was present and voted.



Tonya B. Lacey, MMC
Clerk of Council