

**Fairfax County History Commission
Monthly Meeting**

June 4, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Fairfax County Government Center
Conference Room 4/5
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

The Fairfax County History Commission conducted an in-person meeting on June 4, 2025.
The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Call to Order and Attendance

Commissioners Present per Districts:

Gretchen Bulova, *Chair*
Subhi Mehdi, *Vice Chair**
Brian Heintz, *Treasurer*
Jenee Lindner*
Holly Irwin
Anne Stuntz*
Cheryl-Ann Repetti
Sue Kovach Shuman
David Meyer
Anne Barnes
Margo Coleman**
Jordan Tannenbaum**

District:

Braddock
Dranesville
Braddock
Springfield
Mount Vernon
Hunter Mill
Sully
Providence
Fairfax City
Mount Vernon
Mason
Springfield

Commissioners Excused:

Tammy Mannarino, *Secretary*
Jen MacPherson

County Liaisons Present:

Laura Kviklys, Heritage Resources Branch, Department of Planning and Development;
Stephanie Newman, Heritage Resources Branch, Department of Planning and
Development;
Liz Crowell, Archaeology and Collections Branch, Fairfax County Park Authority.

Staff Present:

Corinne Bebek, History Commission Substitute Clerk

Special Guests Present:

Michael Burton, Senior Planner, Monitoring and Plan Development Branch, Department of
Planning and Development

Members of the Public:

Richard Labbe

**Joined meeting virtually*

***Joined after roll call*

Minutes

Commissioner Heintz moved, and was seconded by Vice Chair Mehdi, that **the History Commission accept the May 2025 minutes, and pay the Clerk, Corinne Bebek.**

The motion passed unanimously.

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Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Heintz reviewed the Treasurer's report for the period ending May 31, 2025. The Treasurer's Report can be found as **Attachment 1**.

- Commissioner Heintz shared that there were expenditures for the minute taker fee, FICA, Medicare, and the History Commission Brochure print order.
- The ending balance is \$49,220.29.

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Presentations

Centreville Historic Resources Survey, Department of Planning and Development (DPD)

Department of Planning and Development staff Laura Kviklys provided a presentation overview of the Centreville Historic Resources Survey. Questions and Discussion from the History Commissioners included:

- Vice Chair Mehdi asked a clarification question regarding the timeframe for structures and why some are unknown.
 - Department of Planning and Development staff indicated that the cutoff was 2000 and prior to get an understanding of the resources. The survey looked at the recently built resources because areas are not surveyed frequently and need to look ahead for Comprehensive Plan recommendations.

Centreville Suburban Area Study, Department of Planning and Development (DPD)

Department of Planning and Development staff Michael Burton provided a presentation overview of the Centreville Suburban Area Study Update and the Wharton Lane Property within the Centreville Historic Overlay District (HOD). Questions and Discussion from the History Commissioners included:

- Commissioner Repetti identified the covered way that connects two Civil War Era forts.
 - Fairfax County Park Authority Archaeology and Collections staff confirmed that none of the fort extends onto the Wharton Property.
- Commissioner Repetti recommended evaluating the property with the holistic landscape rather than an individual property to assess how it participates in the landscape.
 - Department of Planning and Development staff indicated that if there are portions of the site that should provide open space, it can be recommended through the Comprehensive Plan process.
- Vice Chair Mehdi requested clarification on what is meant by consolidation in the Comprehensive Plan as a planning tool, and why does the Wharton Lane Property 5-

- acre parcel need to be developed.
 - Department of Planning and Development staff indicated that the property owner is already able to develop the property by-right, but the review of the Comprehensive Plan recommendation could add development potential to the property. Consolidation refers to individual parcels which are purchased by a developer and combined into one – the benefit to this allows more holistic review of development.
- Commissioner Tannenbaum sought clarification on if projects are planned for this area by the Fairfax County Department of Transportation or the Virginia Department of Transportation.
 - Department of Planning and Development staff clarified that there wasn't a road planned but if the parcels are consolidated the design is reviewed by staff where a vehicular connection would be requested to adjoining neighborhoods.
- Commissioner Tannenbaum requested clarification on why the HOD is significant. Commissioner Repetti indicated the relation is to the Civil War Era. Archaeology and Collections Branch staff noted that there were no artifacts found during initial testing, but more work may need to be done in the future but at this point in time the due diligence has been done.
- Chair Bulova requested clarification on the ARB's role in this project.
 - Department of Planning and Development staff noted that conditions can be placed in the Comprehensive Plan for development when evaluating the site. The ARB could request additional monitoring, information, or requests when reviewing the proposal.
- Commissioner Lindner asked if members of the Bull Run Civil War Roundtable have participated in the process.
 - Staff provided an overview of the outreach and meetings on the project to date.

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New Business

Work Request, Advocacy Committee

Chair Bulova indicated a work request was submitted to DPD staff to put the 275th Anniversary videos onto the History Commission webpage. See **Attachment 2** for the work request

Letter in Support of Legato School, Sue Kovach Shuman

Commissioner Kovach Shuman noted that the school building is being cleaned and may be ready for the festival. A letter is no longer needed for this item. Commissioner Meyer provided a brief overview of the history of the Legato School site.

Conference Collaboration with Fairfax County Historical Society, Sue Kovach Shuman

Commissioner Kovach Shuman reminded the Commissioners that at the May 7th meeting the History Commission elected to not host the History Conference this year. However, Commissioner Kovach Shuman indicated that April 2026 may be a good timeframe to host a 1-day conference which would allow ample time to prepare. A collaborative effort would allow a showcase of many entities such as the Historical Society, Fairfax County, GMU, and others through partnership. The April 2026 conference could be held at the Government Center.

Chair Bulova requested a proposal of the conference collaboration prior to the History Commission making a motion and voting on the item for the August 6, 2025, History Commission meeting.

Old/Unfinished Business

Hiring History Commission Clerk Update

Chair Bulova indicated that the job announcement is closed, and many applications have been received. Vice Chair Mehdi and Commissioner Mannarino will be on the panel. Additional information will be shared with the History Commission when available.

Fairfax High School Update

Commissioner Meyer indicated that a meeting should occur with the new property owner to address the clarification questions regarding potential painting of brick and the ultimate proposed use. The meeting should take place prior to the History Commission providing the letter that was discussed at the May 7th History Commission meeting. The City of Fairfax has not taken any action on this matter yet; the City of Fairfax is aware of Commissioner Meyer and Fairfax County History Commission's interest in the matter.

Staff Reports

Heritage Resources Branch, Laura Kviklys:

- Laura Kviklys, Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development, gave projects, program, and staff updates. It was noted that the Post-Modern Historic Context and Directed Survey draft has been completed and that staff have provided comments to the consultants. Additionally, draft text for the Heritage Resources subsection of the Centreville Suburban Area Study is complete and under review. A final draft report is anticipated in fall 2025. See **Attachment 3** for the staff report.

Archaeology and Collections Branch (ACB), Liz Crowell:

- Liz Crowell, Fairfax County Park Authority, provided ACB program and project updates to the Commission in addition to the Heritage Resource Conservation Branch updates. On Saturday, May 31, 2025, curators at the Stempson House and Hannah P. Clark Enyedi House held their annual open house events. See **Attachment 4** for the Heritage Conservation Branch Staff Report.

Virginia Room, Christopher Barbuschak

- Stephanie Newman, provided staffing, program, collection, and archive updates on behalf of Virginia Room staff. Of note is the need for the Virginia Room to expand shelving to house the complete building permit collection from the Historic County Street Files. See **Attachment 5** for the Virginia Room staff report.

Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee, Anne Stuntz:

Commissioner Stuntz provided a brief update on behalf of the Advocacy Committee. Viva Vienna occurred on May 25, 2025, where the History Commission had a table. Upcoming events include Juneteenth Celebrations at Gum Springs, Fairfax, Vienna, and Sully. See **Attachment 6** for the Advocacy Committee minutes.

Cemetery Committee, Jenee Lindner

Commissioner Lindner attended a presentation about cemeteries by Aimee Wells from the FCPA Archaeology and Collections Branch. Further it is recommended that all History Commissioners attend a similar presentation.

Oral History Committee, Sue Kovach Shuman:

Commissioner Kovach Shuman indicated that a meeting with Channel 16 will occur on June 10th to review the status of the interviews for the 250th project to identify gaps and next steps, and watch a video interview. The goal is to complete all interviews by August 1; however, this does not mean all of the videos will be completed by then as editing is still needed. See **Attachment 7** for the Oral History Committee meeting report.

Inventory Committee, Tammy Mannarino:

Chair Bulova indicated that the next Inventory Committee meeting will be on June 11th.

Marker Committee, Cheryl-Ann Repetti:

Commissioner Repetti provided a brief overview of the recent Marker Committee progress. The revised text of the First Baptist Church of Merrifield Marker is being submitted back to the applicants with queries to clarify sources. See **Attachment 8** for the Marker Committee meeting report.

250th Commission, Chair Gretchen Bulova:

Chair Bulova indicated that the VA250 license plate is now available through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). On Tuesday June 10th the Fairfax County 250th Commission will be providing a presentation to the Board of Supervisors; History Commissioners are encouraged to attend and assist. See **Attachment 9** for the 250th Commission report.

Commission Reports

Architectural Review Board (ARB), Cheryl-Ann Repetti:

Commissioner Repetti indicated that the ARB approved most of the items that were provided in the May 7th History Commission report; however, they did not approve the as-built changes within the Langley Fork HOD. At the next meeting on June 12th the ARB will review proposals for HVAC units on a roof, solar panels, a glass blowing studio, and signage throughout various HODs within the county. See **Attachment 10** for the ARB report.

Sully Reimagined, Subhi Mehdi:


Vice Chair Mehdi provided an overview of the first few meetings of the group which have served as onboarding and establishing relationships. The group will be visiting the Riverdale Museum and other historic sites and facilities in the coming months.

Announcements & News to Share

- Commissioner Meyer indicated that the City of Fairfax has hired Thunderbird Archaeology to review 5 structures for possible inclusion to the National Register. The reports are in the process of being finalized; once the PDFs of reports are available, they will be distributed to the History Commission.
- Commissioner Kovach Shuman indicated on June 29th Marion Dobbins will be hosting a book launch celebration.
- Commissioner Repetti indicated on June 19th the Sully District will host a Juneteenth celebration.
- Commissioner Irwin indicated that the City of Falls Church will host its first Pride event on June 28th at Cherry Hill Park.
- Commissioner Tannenbaum indicated that the Revolutionary War exhibit will open at the Army Museum.
- FCPA staff Liz Crowell announced retirement in August 2025.
- Commissioner Stuntz indicated that Vienna would have parades and events for Liberty Amendments Month through the month of June including workshops on racial covenants. The 250th Mobile Museum will be in Vienna on July 10-12.

Chair Bulova closed the meeting at 8:55 p.m. at the conclusion of the agenda items. A motion of concurrence was made by Anne Barnes and seconded by Jordan Tannenbaum.

Respectfully submitted:
Corinne Bebek
Substitute Clerk, Fairfax County History Commission



Tammy Mannarino,
Corresponding Secretary Fairfax
County History Commission

Date 6/20/25

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Treasurer's Report, June 2025
- Attachment 2: Staff Work Request, May 5, 2025
- Attachment 3: Heritage Resources Branch Staff Report, June 4, 2025
- Attachment 4: Heritage Conservation Branch Staff Report, June 4, 2025
- Attachment 5: Virginia Room Staff Report, June 2025
- Attachment 6: Advocacy Committee Minutes, June 2, 2025
- Attachment 7: Oral History Committee Report, June 2, 2025
- Attachment 8: Marker Committee Report, April 28, 2025
- Attachment 9: Semiquincentennial Report, June 2
- Attachment 10: ARB Liaison Report, June 2025