

**Fairfax County History Commission
Monthly Meeting**

May 7, 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 May 7, 2025.
The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Call to Order and Attendance

Commissioners Present per Districts:

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

District:

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

Commissioners Excused:

None

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.
Christopher Barbuschak, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library.

Staff Present:

Corinne Bebek, History Commission Substitute Clerk

Special Guests Present:

None

***Joined after roll call*

Minutes

Commissioner Mannarino noted that the History Commission sent out 4 letters this past month which were uploaded to the Egnyte folder, shared with the History Commissioners, and contained as **Attachments 1, 2, 3, and 5**.

Commissioner Mannarino moved, and was seconded by Vice Chair Mehdi, that **with the minor change in March minutes, the History Commission accept the April 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 March 31, 2025. The Treasurer's Report can be found as **Attachment 4**.

- Commissioner Heintz shared that there were expenditures for the minute taker fee, FICA, and Medicare.
- The ending balance is \$50,079.56.

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New Business

Standing Approval for Administrative Purchases

Vice Chair Medhi moved, and was seconded by Commissioner Kovach Shuman, that **the History Commission give standing approval for the ordering of nameplates for each new member, name tags as needed, business cards as needed, and miscellaneous office supplies related to the governing of the History Commission to not exceed \$500.00 annually**.

Discussion of motion occurred to include:

- Adding a dollar amount for the spending.
- Clarification that the miscellaneous category would cover the recorder and other items needed for History Commission business.
- Clarification that a new motion will be needed each fiscal year.

The motion reflected in the minutes includes the updates that the History Commission discussed and agreed upon. The motion passed unanimously.

Reprinting of Commission Brochures (1,000 copies)

Commissioner Stuntz moved, and was seconded by Commissioner Mannarino, that **the History Commission approve a request of \$1,000 from the Advocacy Committee to pay for materials and printing in support of informational displays and public education**.

Discussion of the motion occurred to include:

- Clarification that the funding would be used for full color printing of brochures within this current fiscal year – effective immediately.

The motion passed unanimously.

Cancellation of the July 2, 2025, Commission Meeting

Vice Chair Mehdi moved, and was seconded by Commissioner Kovach Shuman, that **the History Commission cancel its Wednesday, July 2, 2025, meeting.**

Discussion of the motion occurred to include:

- Encouragement by commissioners to utilize the June meeting efficiently as the next meeting will occur in August.

The motion passed unanimously.

History Commission Speakers Bureau

The Speakers Bureau would offer lists of topics and speakers to attend events. Discussion amongst Commissioners about revitalizing the Speakers Bureau occurred.

- Chair Bulova recommended that the Advocacy Committee review the request and provide a recommended path forward to the History Commission.
- Vice Chair Mehdi expressed concern that in the past a few commissioners consistently volunteered and advised that the History Commission use all commissioners for this purpose.
- Commissioner Stuntz indicated that a method to address this concern would be to have a sign-up form for commissioners to ensure the burden is shared.
- Commissioner Kovach Shuman has developed a History Commission presentation that can be updated and used as a template for the purpose of the Speakers Bureau.
- Vice Chair Mehdi indicated that a similar presentation was developed for the Dranesville District and will also be shared with the History Commission.

2025 History Conference Options

The History Commission discussed the possibility of cancelling the 2025 Annual History Conference. The History Commission hosts a themed all-day Annual Conference where speakers are invited. Attendance has dwindled over the years with some History Commissioners present. Most recently the conference was held at Sherwood Center in Fairfax City. Commissioners discussed the following:

- Prince William County has a similar conference.
- FCPA has a large auditorium at their collections facility.
- Options to partner with George Mason University (GMU) and have student papers submitted – option to use a professional conference approach and engage with students.
- It is possible to use 250th as a theme for the 2026 conference. Discussion of length of conferences in the past.
- Commissioner Kovach Shuman indicated that the Historical Society of Fairfax County is already working on a symposium for 2026. They are currently seeking funding and exploring options.
- Commissioner Lindner raised that FCPA staff member Liz Crowell would be retiring in August 2025 and the past Chair of the HC retired in December 2024 – the greatest contributors to this event.

Vice Chair Mehdi moved, and was seconded by Commissioner Repetti, that **the History Commission cancel its Annual History Conference for 2025.**

Discussion of the motion occurred to include:

- Commissioner Tannenbaum indicated it is the 250th anniversary of the army which could be a possible topic for the 2025 conference. Many events to celebrate the anniversary are already planned for June 14, 2025.
- Commissioner Lindner indicated that Colonel Messina, former Garrison Commander of Fort Belvoir, is the Chair of the Army celebration.
- Chair Bulova indicated that there is a high workload for those currently working on 250th events – marketing a program for 2025 may not be feasible due to capacity.
- Vice Chair Mehdi indicated that no Commissioners have volunteered as Chair of the History Conference 2025 and that a Chair is needed for this committee prior to an event – a committee and leader are needed to make the event happen.
- Commissioner Stuntz noted that while in favor of motion, would like the Commissioners to start thinking about the 2026 conference and propose a plan to send Commissioners in 2025 to attend local history conferences subsidized by the History Commission. It was recommended that the History Commission use 2025 for research; Commissioner Stuntz indicated willingness to keep track of individuals attending conferences for 2025.

The motion passed with Commissioner Tannenbaum abstaining from the vote.

Old/Unfinished Business

Cartersville Baptist Church

Commissioner Mannarino indicated that in accordance with the motion from the April meeting, the History Commission's letter went out on April 23, 2025. Feedback from staff was received with general acceptance and a recommendation to provide more guidance on the dates recorded on the master list of the inventory of history sites. This request was reasonable and will be considered going forward. The letter can be found as **Attachment 5**.

James Lee Interpretive Panel

Commissioner Coleman indicated that Lawrence Clark, Operation Manager, Region 2, Neighborhood and Community Services will be updating the panel text to remove the term and will include authorship credited to Marion Dobbins and Lawrence Clark.

Section 106 for 495/95 Expansion

Chair Bulova indicated that the History Commission is registered as a consulting party for the two HOT Lane expansions for 495/95. A virtual presentation is available – 4 outreach events are upcoming Edison High School, West Potomac High School, Oxon Hill High School, and the Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center. Commissioner Mannarino indicated that the Mount Vernon and Franconia Commissioners should consider attending or participating due to proximity of the proposal to the districts. Commissioner Tannenbaum requested clarification on

whether adverse or no adverse determination has been made. Chair Bulova offered to share the information with Commissioner Tannenbaum for review.

Hiring History Commission Clerk Update

Chair Bulova indicated that the position has been posted, and the notice distributed. The posting closes on June 2, 2025, and it was recommended that Commissioners should spread the word as well. All applications will be submitted to Chair Bulova. The ad can be found as **Attachment 6**.

Fairfax High School Update

Commissioner Meyer indicated that Fairfax High School was built in 1935. In 1972 the City of Fairfax divested itself of the facility and replaced it with the current high school. GMU used the facility for 10 years then it was sold to the Archdiocese of Arlington and was a Catholic High School until 2021. The Archdiocese of Arlington sold to IDI Group, a developer. After the March 2, 2025, History Commission meeting, Commissioner Meyer met with Fairfax City staff regarding the proposal which is to gut the interior of building but retain front façade and repair the east and west ends of existing buildings. Commissioner Meyer has a copy of the proposal and will share it with the History Commission. The proposal includes plans to cover up the original high school sign which is contradictory to the initial agreement between the City Council and IDI. This

Commissioner Meyer recommended that the History Commission send a letter to the Mayor, City Council, Developer, and City of Fairfax staff that the original agreement with IDI should be honored, or an alternative proposed to preserve the original sign. Commissioner Meyer offered to draft a letter from the History Commission. Chair Bulova raised concern that the City of Fairfax is a different jurisdiction and not the purview of the History Commission. Commissioner Meyer indicated that the letter would be advisory. Historic Fairfax City, Inc. (HFCI) would produce a direct letter. Vice Chair Mehdi clarified that the concern identified in the letter would be the high school sign and requested further clarification on how the interior would be used. Commissioner Meyer said that the interior use is to be determined but likely commercial space. Commissioner Stuntz confirmed that the existing façade and 2-story structure would remain. Commissioner Meyer is trying to meet with the new owner.

Commissioner Mannarino noted the letter writing policy would allow a group of commissioners to write the letter and send prior to the August 2025 History Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Meyer moved, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mannarino, that **the History Commission send an advisory letter to the City of Fairfax encouraging the preservation of the exterior façade of the original Fairfax High School building including the High School name, with Commissioner Meyer serving as the author, sending the letter to the City of Fairfax by June 1, 2025.**

The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Mehdi requested that the History Commission identify a group to work on the letter which is as follows:

- Commissioner Meyer

- Commissioner Mannarino
- Commissioner Stuntz
- Commissioner Lindner

Staff Reports

Heritage Resources Branch, Laura Kviklys:

- Laura Kviklys, Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development, gave projects, program, and staff updates. See **Attachment 7** for the staff report.
- Additionally, the minutes from the past 18 months have been finalized and posted online. And supply requests due June 6, 2025, to DPD Staff.

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. See **Attachment 8** for the ACB staff report and **Attachment 9** for the Heritage Conservation Branch Staff Report.

Virginia Room, Christopher Barbuschak

- Christopher Barbuschak, Fairfax County Public Library, provided staffing, program, collection, and archive updates. See **Attachment 10** for the Virginia Room staff report.

Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee, Anne Stuntz:

Commissioner Stuntz passed around a sign-up form for upcoming events for commissioners. See **Attachment 11** for the Advocacy Committee minutes.

- Commissioner Mannarino raised the History Commission Annual Report and reminded the Committee Chairs to provide information to be included in the Annual Report; a template and example will be provided.
- Chair Bulova reminded new members to send a headshot and short bio (150-word limit).

Cemetery Committee, Jenee Lindner

Commissioner Lindner noted that the Cemetery Committee has not been meeting but provided the following updates:

- Mary Lipsey retired from the History Commission; former Commissioner Lipsey had created a nonprofit for cemeteries which will be shut down in July 2025. A flash drive with information will be provided to the History Commission upon the nonprofit dissolution. The Cemetery Committee will resume meeting once this process is complete.
- The Cemetery Committee currently includes Commissioner Lindner, Commissioner Repetti, Commissioner Stuntz, and Commissioner Meyer. The role of the Committee is to support County cemetery preservation efforts; however, former Commissioner Lipsey would like to remain involved with cemetery preservation work so the Cemetery

- Committee and History Commission should reach out when cemetery issues are raised.
- If the History Commission would like to clean up a cemetery, this work should be done through FCPA. Loudoun County also has a nonprofit that is willing to sponsor cleanups.
 - There was discussion in the recent Inventory Committee meeting about whether the Cemetery Committee should be combined with the Inventory Committee.
 - Commissioner Mannarino indicated that the Inventory Committee is at capacity with nominations, some of which are 5-years old. The History Commission needs to have further discussion on cemetery nominations; however, the Commissioner is not supportive of combining due to differences in scope of work but is open to consideration in future.
 - Commissioner Repetti doesn't see an overlap between the two committee functions.
 - Vice Chair Mehdi agreed with Commissioners Mannarino and Repetti that functions do not overlap and raised a question of what the Cemetery Committee does as there is disagreement on the summary items. A point was raised that the History Commission Committee functions need to contribute to the overall mission of the History Commission.
 - It was raised that the paper handouts provided to the History Commission were not uploaded into Egnyte and should be, so they are part of the meeting record. The handout can be found as **Attachment 12**.

Oral History Committee, Sue Kovach Shuman:

Commissioner Kovach Shuman noted that one interview with Channel 16 has been completed, and it is anticipated that there will be some interviews ready to share this summer with History Commission members. There will be an upcoming staff work request to consolidate previous oral histories in one place on the History Commission's website. A full Oral History Committee Report can be found as **Attachment 13**.

Inventory Committee, Tammy Mannarino:

Commissioner Mannarino shared that the Inventory Committee met at 6pm prior to the History Commission meeting. The Committee discussed the following items:

- How to amend the inventory and update boundaries for nominations. There was a lot of discussion around 2 standalone cemetery nominations not affiliated with ruins sites and the question of how this fits with the inventory. Protection of cemeteries is also a topic other jurisdictions are considering and will set the precedent for how things are nominated in the future. There will be further coordination with the Cemetery Committee on this matter.
 - Commissioner Tannenbaum sought clarification on whether the Section 106 guidelines are used. Commissioner Mannarino noted that the National Register has specific considerations for cemeteries to qualify which have been reviewed. Commissioner Repetti indicated the National Register is used as a guideline but does not bind the Inventory Committee.

Marker Committee, Cheryl-Ann Repetti:

Commissioner Repetti shared that the Marker Committee did not meet in April. However, revisions for one marker were received and are under review. The Marker Committee will meet in May to consider the proposed edits. The Goins Home Marker revisions were approved. A full Marker Committee Report can be found as **Attachment 14**.

Commissioner Stuntz asked if the Goins Marker has been fabricated. DPD staff indicated that the marker will not be fabricated until the location is finalized. The current proposed location is closer to the original house than the previous location and the Community Center property is the only place it can be located.

Commissioner Tannenbaum noted the great attendance at the Springfield High School marker unveiling and wondered why the History Commission was not a part of the formal program.

- DPD staff indicated that the History Commission was involved as members of review committee and the remarks for the event mentioned the History Commission.
- Commissioner Heintz spoke at West Springfield marker unveiling.
- Commissioner Tannenbaum recommended that the Advocacy and Outreach Committees speak at future events like these.

250th Commission, Chair Gretchen Bulova:

Chair Bulova highlighted that there was a formal kick-off for the Fairfax 250th Commemoration at George Washington's Mount Vernon on May 4, 2025. Chairman McKay and Supervisor Storck spoke at the event. There will be a formal presentation to the Board of Supervisors by the Fairfax 250th Commission on June 10th. The first official event for the Fairfax 250th mobile experience will be at Viva Vienna and the History Commission will have a table. A full 250th Committee Report can be found as **Attachment 15**.

Commission Reports

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

Commissioner Repetti indicated that the ARB will meet on May 8th and the examples in the report reflect the kinds of decisions the ARB makes and the types of applications they review. The ARB is reviewing signage and lighting in addition to Hollin Hills HOD proposals. There is a lot of discussion on how to make Mid-Century Modern architecture livable for the 21st century. If the History Commissioners have questions or comments, they should contact Commissioner Repetti or attend the ARB meetings. The intent of the revised ARB report is to provide a heads up on what's coming forward, rather than a retrospective. A full Architectural Review Board report can be found as **Attachment 16**.

Announcements & News to Share

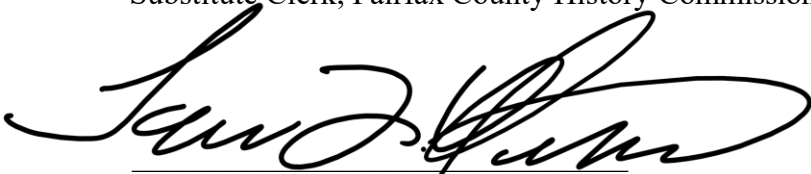
- Chair Bulova wrapped up the meeting by noting that there will be a DPD staff presentation (30ish minutes) for the Centerville Plan Amendment followed by discussion at the June meeting. History Commissioners should send additional agenda items to Chair Bulova.
- Commissioner Mannarino highlighted that Fort Belvoir leadership provided coordination on the naming of “Young Village.” Commissioners Mannarino and Lindner participated on a committee that proposed this name, which was the name of the African American community in the area in the 1940s, and that the new street names reflect the historic landowners.
- Commissioner Stuntz reported that Vienna has requested the VA250 mobile museum for Liberty Amendments month. Will keep History Commission apprised and the event will occur in early July if it happens.
- Commissioner Lindner indicated that Susan Gray is retiring on June 1st. The City of Fairfax staff and HFCI will have an annual meeting on May 14th at 7 p.m. where a GMU professor and director (Missy Cummings) will speak.
- Commissioner Tannenbaum mentioned that the National Museum of U.S. Army will open an exhibit in June. The museum’s curators have gone around the world to collect exhibit materials and general Cornwallis’ surrender sword will be included.

Chair Bulova closed the meeting at 9 p.m. at the conclusion of the agenda items.

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: Franconia Names Letter, April 7, 2025

Attachment 2: Street File Permits Letter, April 7, 2025

Attachment 3: CLG Cost Share Letter, April 27, 2025

Attachment 4: Treasurer's Report, May 2025

Attachment 5: Cartersville Baptist Church Letter, April 23, 2025

Attachment 6: Clerk Ad, May 2025

Attachment 7: Heritage Resources Branch Staff Report, May 7, 2025

Attachment 8: Archaeology and Collections Branch Staff Report, April 30, 2025

Attachment 9: Heritage Conservation Branch Staff Report, May 7, 2025

Attachment 10: Virginia Room Staff Report, May 2025

Attachment 11: Advocacy Committee Minutes, April 29, 2025

Attachment 12: Status of the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc., May 2025

Attachment 13: Oral History Committee Report, April 29, 2025

Attachment 14: Marker Committee Report, May 7, 2025

Attachment 15: Semiquincentennial Report, May 7, 2025

Attachment 16: ARB Liaison Report, May 2025