## Electronic meeting Fairfax County History Commission February 3, 2021

The Fairfax County History Commission conducted a wholly electronic meeting on February 3, 2021.

#### Call to Order

Chair Repetti called the February 3, 2021, meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. Before proceeding, she read the following script:

To conduct this meeting wholly electronically and to effectuate both the emergency procedures authorized by FOIA and the Emergency Ordinance, this Board needs to make certain findings and determinations for the record. It's a bit cumbersome, so I ask you in advance for your patience.

### Audibility of Members' Voices

Chair Repetti then read the following statement:

First, because each member of this Board is participating in this meeting from a separate location, we must verify that a quorum of members is participating, and that each member's voice is clear, audible, and at an appropriate volume for all of the other members. Accordingly, I am going to conduct a roll call, and ask each board member participating in this meeting to state your name and the location from which you are participating. I ask that each of you pay close attention to ensure that you can hear each of your colleagues. Following this roll call, we will vote to establish that every member can hear every other member.

#### Roll Call

Chair Repetti proceeded to conduct a roll call as follows:

| Commissioners Present per Districts: | Location     |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Mary Lipsey                          | Springfield  |
| Gretchen Bulova                      | Fairfax      |
| Carole Herrick                       | McLean       |
| Barbara Naef                         | Reston       |
| Anne Stuntz                          | Vienna       |
| Steve Sherman, Secretary             | Franconia    |
| Barbara Peters, Treasurer            | Annandale    |
| Anne Barnes                          | Mount Vernon |
| Sallie Lyons                         | Colchester   |
| Tammy Mannarino                      | Mount Vernon |
| Sue Kovach Shuman                    | Mantua       |
| Lynne Garvey-Hodge, Vice Chair       | Springfield  |
| Jordan Tannenbaum                    | Fairfax      |
| Esther McCullough                    | Herndon      |
| Cheryl-Ann Repetti, Chair            | Centreville  |
| Bob Beach                            | Fairfax      |
|                                      |              |

David Meyer

City of Fairfax

#### **Commissioners Absent**

Elise Murray Phyllis Walker Ford

#### County Liaisons Present:

Elizabeth Crowell, Diana Inthavong, Fairfax County Park Authority Laura Wickstead, Virginia Room Denice Dressel, Fairfax County Dept. of Planning & Development Ryan Johnson, Clerk Ad Interim to the History Commission

#### Other Guests

Todi Carnes

At this point, Chair Repetti passed the virtual gavel over to Vice Chair Lynne Garvey-Hodge, so that she may be heard to make a voice vote:

Regarding audibility of members' voices, a motion was made by Chair Repetti, seconded by Commissioner McCullough, that <u>the History Commission satisfies that each member's voice can be adequately head by each other member of this Commission.</u>

A vote was taken on the motion verifying audibility of History Commission members' voices, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Need for Electronic Meeting**

Chair Repetti read the following statement:

Having established that each member's voice may be heard by every other member; we must next establish the nature of the emergency that compels these emergency procedures, the fact that we are meeting electronically, what type of electronic communication is being used, and how we have arranged for public access to this meeting.

Therefore, a motion was made by Chair Repetti, seconded by Commissioner McCullough, that the State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe for this Board to physically assemble and unsafe for the public to physically attend any such meeting, and that as such, FOIA's usual procedures, which require the physical assembly of this Commission and the physical presence of the public, cannot be implemented safely or practically. I further move that this Commission may conduct this meeting electronically through a dedicated telephone line, and that the public may access this meeting by WebEx Virtual Meeting, Attendee Call In: 1-844-621-3956 Event Number: 179 607 2050, Fairfax, VA.

The motion carried unanimously.

Need to dispense with FOIA's Usual Procedures to Assure Continuity in Government/Continue Operations

Chair Repetti read as follows:

Finally, it is next required, and Chair Repetti moved, that all of the matters addressed on today's agenda must address the State of Emergency itself, are necessary for continuity in Fairfax County government, and/or are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and the discharge of this Commission's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Herrick, and carried unanimously.

Chair Repetti thanked the following Commissioners accordingly:

Commissioners Peters and Sherman for continuing their roles as Treasurer and

Corresponding Secretary, respectively.

Commissioner Tannenbaum for drafting the telecommunications form letter.

Commissioners, in general, thanked Ryan Johnson for being the substitute clerk for tonight's meeting.

## Approval of the January 13, 2021 Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Naef, and seconded by Commissioner Tannenbaum, to approve the History Commission Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2021, as presented, and pay the clerk.

The motion carried unanimously after a vote.

\*\*Vice Chair Garvey-Hodge passed the virtual gavel back to Chair Repetti at 7:23 p.m.\*\*

## Treasurer's Report – Commissioner Peters Reported:

The Treasurer's report for the period ending January 31, 2021:

- Revenue: \$1350 for James Lee Marker, \$30 interest, no expenses
- Ending Balance: \$77,426.74
- Park Authority/History Conference Account balance is \$1,899.81
- There will soon be a return of a deposit from the City of Fairfax for reserving City facility (Sherwood Hall)
  - Vice Chair Garvey-Hodge asked about the specific dollar amount for the deposit that would be returned. Commissioner Peters responded that the exact amount is not entirely known at this time, at that she would provide an update to the Commission.

The entire treasurer's Report is attached to these minutes as Attachment 1.

#### **Unfinished Business**

# History Commission Meeting Start Time & Length Chair Repetti Reported:

As previously mentioned, the dual topics of start time and meeting length would be revisited this year. She opened the floor up for discussion on the aforementioned topics and related concerns:

- Commissioner Tannenbaum offered that the Commission consider a 7:30 p.m. start time
- Commissioners Herrick and Peters both mentioned that meetings could be shorter. Commissioner Peters mentioned that some of the reports could just be sent ahead of time to Commissioners, and the report-out at the actual meeting would consist only of specific highlighted action items.
- Vice Chair Garvey-Hodge mentioned that she likes the idea of the 7:30 p.m. start time, however she has an evening class at 9:00 p.m.
- Commissioner Shuman mentioned that written reports should be sent within a specified time before the History Commission meeting date.
  - Chair Repetti responded that this would allow Commissioners to focus more on the meat of discussion.
- Commissioner McCullough hereby moved, and was seconded by Commissioner Naef, that History Commission meetings start at 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month. Commissioner Mannarino suggested a friendly amendment to said motion, that it be effective starting with the March 3, 2021 History Commission meeting. Vice Chair Garvey-Hodge likewise suggested a friendly amendment to said motion, that History Conference and Awards items be moved towards the top of the agenda. Both friendly amendments were accepted by Commissioner McCullough, and by the seconder Commissioner Naef. A discussion ensued:
  - Commissioner Sherman mentioned that the reason to move the meeting time to 7:00 p.m. was the meeting length.
  - Commissioner Tannenbaum mentioned that there should be further discussion about time management during meetings.
    - Commissioner Naef offered that the aim should be 2-hour meeting time, succinct moderation, and expedition of matters.
    - Commissioner Stuntz reiterated the importance of posting discussion items on the agenda ahead of time.

- Elizabeth Crowell, FCPA, asked a question on behalf of staff, particularly would there be a specific deadline ahead of time to have items sent out to Commissioners.
  - Denice Dressel, DPD, responded that anything that is distributed to Commissioners has to be posted at least 3 business days before meeting. Ms. Dressel will check with the financial team to make sure Treasurer can do their report within that time constraint.
- Commissioner Herrick stated overall support for the 7:30 p.m. start time, but mentioned that sometimes presentations can be lengthy, and a 7:00 p.m. start time may better accommodate such situations.
- Commissioner Naef called to question the aforementioned motion, and the motion carried with a 16-0-1 vote, with Vice Chair Garvey-Hodge abstaining.

#### River Farm Update - Commissioner Tammy Mannarino Reported:

The History Commission letter went out to the American Horticultural Society, and that the History Commission is now listed as a partner on the Save River Farm friends group website. Both developments have been noted in Supervisor Storck's newsletter that went out today. An interesting breakthrough occurred, in that a community member contacted a woman (Shirley Strickland Thomas) who has the original plans for a tenant house on the property. Thomas' father is Tom Strickland, purported to be the builder of the tenant house. Thomas has loaned the community member the blueprints, which have been scanned in and provided to DPD and the Virginia Room. The builder/architect is likely the same person for the main house. Ms. Thomas has connections to Gunston Manor and the Rt. 1 Wells Fargo.

## Soapstone Connector Update - Commissioner Tannenbaum Reported:

Commissioner Tannenbaum has been in communication with DHR. The comments have been completed for the Section 4(f) review. The Section 106 comments are forthcoming. Waiting for the FHWA to commence next step in the process. There is still time for the History Commission to be actively involved.

#### **New Business**

## Archaeology Grant Request – Commissioner Naef Reported:

Commissioner Naef reported in Commissioner Murray's absence. NOTE: Chair Repetti recused herself from this item given potential conflict of interest, and handed the virtual gavel to Vice Chair Garvey-Hodge.

Commissioner Naef continued her report accordingly. She stated that Commissioners have already received the details of the grant request, and proceeded with a brief overview:

 Archaeology Program was started in the 1970's with the mentorship and leadership of the History Commission. In the past, the History Commission has provided grant money for seasonal employees. The program is now asking for equipment—the request is for 7 equipment systems, which are broken down into Priority 1 and Priority 2.

Commissioner Naef moved to approve the Archaelogy Grant, in the full amount of \$27,250 as detailed in Attachment 2 to these minutes, and was seconded by Commissioner Tannenbaum. A discussion ensued:

- Elizabeth Crowell, FCPA, commented that the existing photo station is currently 18 years old, and the new iPAD will have GPS and GIS technology. The current outdated technology is costing staff \$9600 weekly, and if the motion approving the grant request is approved, those costs would go down to \$450 weekly.
- Commissioner Peters asked whether this funding would be spent all at once, or spread out over time.
  - Commissioner Naef responded that this funding is more of a catch-up measure, not a periodically recurring expenditure.
- Commissioner Shuman asked does the County not already provide Adobe Creative Suite.
  - Ms. Crowell responded no. The grant allowing purchase of new equipment will make operations much more efficient. She mentioned iPADs were initially requested from the County four years ago, and two years later, only one such iPAD request had been fulfilled.
- Commissioner Stuntz stated her support for the full grant amount.
- Ms. Crowell mentioned this does not exceed the funding limit based on previous discussions.
- Commissioner Lipsey mentioned that the technological savings will make up for themselves.
- Commissioner Peters mentioned that she is worried this exceeds the annual amount allotted by the County to the History Commission. She suggested that perhaps instead the County re-work its own funding priorities.
- Commissioner Naef mentioned that there is a history of a lack of funding.
- Commissioner Tannenbaum suggested a letter be sent to the County Board to mention this cost.

Commissioner Naef called to question the aforementioned motion, and the motion carried with a 15-0-2 vote, with Commissioners Sherman and Beach abstaining.

 Commissioner Peters requested Ms. Crowell to email her what is required for the approved funding.

Chair Repetti returned to the meeting. Vice Chair Garvey-Hodge handed the virtual gavel back to Chair Repetti.

### Staff Reports

# Fairfax County Park Authority – Elizabeth Crowell Reported: Archaeology and Collections Branch

- Chris Sperling, HRS III archaeologist, who was reported as resigning effective December 18, 2020, was recently hit by a car in Maryland, and he has been critically injured. He was in a crosswalk with his wife and child. Reach out to him for well-wishes. Interviews for his position will be completed by the end of February.
- Limited Term Field Director Robin Ramey left and went to Longwood University, and the position was frozen due to COVID. Robin Ramey has since returned to the County now that the position has been reinstated. She has a Master's in Archaeology and 2 certificates in GIS.
- Alisa Petit has been promoted to a full-time archaeologist position. There are now Ms. Crowell and 4 full-time employees. Alisa is about to complete her Ph.D. at George Mason University in Computer GIS Systems.
- FCPA continues to do field work at Mount Air and River Bend, and working on wayside markers.

# Resource Management Division – Diana Inthavong Reported: Museum Collections

- The Collections Manager applied to, was accepted, and attended the Image Permanence Institute's grant-funded workshop, Training Sustainable Environmental Management Teams for Cultural Institutions, from January 11-14.
- The January artiFACTS blog, highlighting a toleware pin tin for National Pie Day, was submitted and posted.
- The Collections Manager provided the Virginia Room with digital copies of 3 CDs of oral history interviews about Annandale.
- The Collections Manager gave an extensive tour of collections to the new LTE staff member at Colvin Run Mill.
- The Collections Manager provided information and was involved in all meetings about Collections Facility planning.

# Operations and Maintenance Projects

 The conservation lease for Sears House is in review to make Sears house the pilot property for the program.

 The Historic Structure Reports for the outbuildings at Sully Historic Site are in final draft review.

#### Volunteers-HSVC

 The 2021 HSVC volunteer meet and greet and information session is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10. The meeting will be held virtually.

## Virginia Room - Laura Wickstead Reported:

 Great Falls Historical Society has disbanded, and they delivered 6 or more boxes of material to the Virginia Room.

# Department of Planning and Development - Denice Dressel Reported:

- Soapstone Connector and Association Drive Office Complex, Hunter Mill District DPD received a copy of Federal Highway's (FHWA) letter to the Department of Historic Resources, asking for concurrence on FHWA's determination of adverse effect of the Soapstone Connector Highway project on the Association Drive Historic District. The Section 4(f) evaluation concluded that there is no feasible and prudent avoidance alternative to the use of land from the Association Drive Historic District, and that FHWA may approve either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2 alignment of the Soapstone Connector. Both alignments will require the acquisition of one of the properties that is a contributing element to the Association Drive Historic District. FHWA recognized the need to prepare a Memorandum of Agreement to resolve adverse effects, and they will be in coordination with DHR and the consulting parties to achieve concurrence on the proposed mitigation.
  - Commissioner Tannenbaum had a question about the date for the concurrence letter to DHR. Asked for Ms. Dressel to email copy of the letter, and whether DPD had been asked to respond to the determination of adverse impact. Ms. Dressel responded that she would follow-up.
- Wellington at River Farm Proposed HOD, Mount Vernon District Laura Arseneau and Nicole Brannan are currently working on drafting the report for the proposed HOD. There will be a community meeting on Monday, February 22 at 6:30pm to discuss the study findings and process. The project team has asked to present to the History Commission at your March meeting at which time they will be asking for a vote of support for creation of the HOD. The Planning Commission public hearing is scheduled for March 17 and the BOS public hearing is scheduled for April 13. More information can be found on the Wellington HOD webpage.
- Hollin Hills Potential HOD, Mount Vernon District A community-wide meeting
  was held on January 25 to discuss the study findings including the potential
  boundary, contributing and non-contributing properties, and the draft design
  guidelines. The presentation and meeting recording are posted on the Hollin Hills

- <u>HOD webpage</u>. Laura Arseneau is accepting public comment on the materials through the end of February.
- Holmes Run Acres Potential HOD, Providence District Staff is continuing to meet with the workgroup; the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The workgroup will be hearing a presentation on zMOD and Accessory Dwelling Units, and an update from EHT Traceries on the design guidelines. More information can be found on the Holmes Run Acres HOD project webpage or by contacting Nicole Brannan.
  - o Commissioner Shuman mentioned that the Holmes Run Work Group is really caught up on the zMOD issues—there are a lot of questions.
- Reston Architectural Survey, Hunter Mill District We are expecting the final draft from the consultant any day it will be posted on the Reston survey project webpage once received and reviewed. As a reminder, this project was partially funded by a Cost Share Grant from DHR. The survey results will be presented to the ARB at their March meeting, and to the Reston Master Plan Task Force sometime in April. The survey will be used as a planning tool by DPD staff in the development review process. Please contact Denice Dressel if you have any questions.
- Gum Springs Cultural Resources Study, Mount Vernon District The project is
  in a slight holding pattern until after the Mount Vernon District's Town Hall scheduled
  for this Saturday. This project is being funded by a carryover budget request made
  by Supervisor Storck last year to fully fund an architectural study and complete a
  state Preliminary Information form, which is the first step in the process for a
  National Register nomination. The Supervisor's office will be creating a community
  group to advise on the project. We have not set up a webpage, yet, for this project. If
  you would like additional information, please contact Denice Dressel.
- Pride of Fairfax National Register Nomination, Mt. Vernon District Research and documentation for the completion of a National Register nomination for the Pride of Fairfax Lodge in Gum Springs, has begun. This project is being funded partially with a Certified Local Government Grant we received from the state. Staff anticipates scheduling a project kickoff meeting with the community later this month. Please contact Denice Dressel with any questions.
- Future survey efforts and funding opportunities Looking forward, we are
  hoping to apply to the state's grant programs this year to complete a context study of
  the County's African American history along with a county-wide architectural survey.
  This is a large project, and we may end up needing to distribute the work over 2
  years and grant cycles. We will keep the History Commission updated.
- Fairfax County's Semiquincentennial (250<sup>th</sup>) workgroup, county-wide The first workgroup session for the County's Semiquincentennial commemoration took place on January 22. The workgroup went over its purpose and charge, they received an

update on the work and reviewed the key organizing themes of the Commonwealth Commission, they discussed making a modest budget request at this time, and the structure, process and time frame for preparing their report to the Board. The next meeting is to be determined, however, they agreed to meet monthly. For more information you can visit the <a href="Semiguincentennial workgroup webpage">Semiguincentennial workgroup webpage</a> or you can contact Denice Dressel.

- Chair Repetti asked about the study, specifically about the African-American history component.
  - Ms. Dressel responded that staff has until April to work on the grant process. Ms. Dressel has also reached out to Commissioner Walker Ford, and will follow-up.

### **Committee Reports**

African American History Initiative-- Commissioner Lipsey Reported:

Commissioner Lipsey announced that the newly formed committee will meet Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM. Also, she explained that two seniors from the West Springfield High School Applied History class had received training and conducted a practice interview in preparation of interviewing African American county residents. The young ladies are very excited about the project.

## Semiquincentennial - Commissioner Bulova Reported:

- State Commission No update since January 13, 2021 History Commission meeting. Next meeting for the State Commission is scheduled for February 12, 2021. The meetings are open to the public if anyone is interested.
- Fairfax County Workgroup Commissioners Bulova and Lipsey attended the first meeting of the Fairfax County 250th Workgroup on Friday, January 22 as representatives of the History Commission. The meeting was chaired by Scott Stroh, Director of George Mason's Gunston Hall. Representatives from the National Museum of the U.S. Army, George Mason University, Visit Fairfax, George Washington's Mount Vernon, Fairfax County Equity Division, and Supervisor Stork's Office attended. Denice Dressel is staff to the Workgroup. The meeting was primarily organizational and provided background on the formation of the Workgroup and the State Commission. At the next meeting, representatives are asked to bring ideas for the Commemoration. We plan to suggest some of the successful projects of the Sesquicentennial and Fairfax 275th Commemoration.
- History Commission Committee- met on 1/27,
   The Committee Members for the Commission will include Commissioners Bulova, Lipsey, Shuman, and Tannenbaum. Committee meetings will be scheduled once the Fairfax County Workgroup workplan has been created.

## Inventory Committee - Commissioner Murray

There was no Inventory Committee report for the night, as Commissioner Murray was absent from the meeting.

## **Budget Committee - Commissioner Murray**

There was no Budget Committee report for the night.

## **Annual Report - Commissioner Murray**

There was no Annual Report for the night.

### Marker Committee - Commissioner Lipsey Reported:

- Commissioner Marker Committee Chair Lipsey reported that she had received two out of state inquiries about the History Commission marker program. She was able to answer their questions and provide guidance.
- Commissioner Lipsey shared that she, Chair Repetti, Commissioner Bulova and Patrick Lennon of Visit Fairfax met to discuss the request for sponsorship of Civil War Trails markers located in the county. As a result of the meeting, Chairman Repetti and Commissioner Lipsey prepared questions concerning sponsorship to be sent to the County Attorney's office.
- Commissioner Lipsey had a phone conversation with Aryeh Kalender of Supervisor Palchik's office about a program to engage students in local history. The program would involve students in researching and writing a 100-word text for a possible History Commission marker. Many details need to be worked out. West Springfield High School teacher Brian Heintz has volunteered to pilot the program with the students in his Applied History class this coming Fall.
- Marker Committee Chair Lipsey read aloud the text of the Carrolltown marker, Attachment 3 to these minutes, and made a motion that the text be accepted as read. Commissioner Naef seconded the motion:
  - A discussion ensued:
    - Vice Chair Garvey-Hodge asked if this Carroll family was connected to the Carroll family of Clifton. Commissioner Lipsey responded that she was unsure.
    - Commissioner Sherman asked if Commissioner Walker Ford was part of the committee. Commissioner Lipsey responded yes, and that Commissioner Walker Ford had worked with the descendants on this project.
    - Commissioner Naef mentioned this was a great example of highlighting individuals within the African-American community.
    - Commissioner Sherman mentioned that this marker location is close to Manchester Lakes and Kingstowne area.
  - o After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- Marker Committee Chair Lipsey made a second motion to approve \$2920 for the removal and disposal of the old marker and financing of and

# installation of the new marker. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Naef.

- A discussion ensued:
  - Commissioner Mannarino asked whether the fees were one-time for the installation. Commissioner Lipsey responded yes.
- After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

## Cemetery Preservation—Commissioner Lipsey reported:

She received a request to help in the preservation of the Ford, Ellis, Simms cemetery in Great Falls. She also a received an email from a GMU student who would like to discuss preservation of the Jermantown Cemetery in Fairfax City.

## Ethnic and Oral History—Commissioner McCullough reported:

- The dates for the Channel 16 interviews have been set. The Channel 16 contact is Ann Gartner. February 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> are the two interview dates:
  - o First group: Cathy Hudgins, Michael Frey, Sharon Bulova, etc.
  - o Second Group: Kate Henley, Jane Dubois, etc.
- Commissioner McCullough:
  - Recommended a signed letter of thanks from the History Commission Chair be sent to the interviewees.
  - Was concerned about conducting in-person interviews at the Channel 16 Studio at the Government Center due to COVID-19.
    - Commissioner Lipsey mentioned maybe an outside meeting could work.
  - o Requested volunteers to assist with the interviews.

# Resident Curator Program Updates- Commissioner Robert Beach reported:

- The BOS public hearing for the full term RCP lease for Hannah P.
   Clark/Enyedi will be held on March 23, 2021, time to be determined. The curator's current interim PAB lease expires in April 2021.
- The BOS public hearing for the RCP lease for Ellmore Farmhouse, will also be held on March 23, 2021, time to be determined. Upon BOS approval of the lease, ServiceSource will submit its Special Exception application for its proposed nonprofit use of the site. Full RCP lease commencement will be contingent on SE approval.
- The curator at Turner Farmhouse continues with improvements to the Farmhouse interior, while the Special Exception application is under Department of Planning & Development review.
- The curator at the Stempson House continues with master bathroom renovation, with covered porch repair as an upcoming project.
- Staff is working with Park Operations to evaluate the well and septic at Margaret White Gardens.

# Bylaws Committee – Commissioner Barnes Reported:

Commissioner Barnes reported that she will be scheduling a meeting for February 25<sup>th</sup>.

## History Conference Committee - Vice Chair Garvey-Hodge Reported:

- Highlights from Committee meeting held on January 27 at 7:30 p.m.
  - Present: Commissioners Naef, McCullough, Walker Ford, Meyer, Tannenbaum, and Chair Repetti; Mike Irwin, Elizabeth Crowell
    - Commissioner Lyons was hopeful to join in, but needed to care for her mother
    - New information: Commissioner Lipsey has graciously offered to support the team as needed, but with her other many commitments has a need to step back as a team member at this time.
  - Four topics were on the Agenda for the evening: (1) Conference Theme;
     (2) Venue: Live/LiveStream; Virtual or both; (3) Budget; and (4) Marketing
     (1) Theme
    - "Fairfax County's History of Diversity". Topic will be spread out over 4 years with the 4th year culminating in the Conference's 20th year. After much discussion in regard to positioning our very important African American history, it was decided to begin after the Civil War with the reality of Reconstruction and finish the 19th century, then move into the 20th and 21st centuries. The reality of immigration also has had broad, rich and deep effects on our county's development, economy, infrastructure, housing, education, religious orientations and land use.
    - These will be discussed at our next meeting on Wed.,
       February 24, 2021 7:30pm via [Webex]
    - o (2) Venue
      - While we have always enjoyed the location of the Sherwood Community Center – we are unsure of what may happen this year, again, due to the COVID situation. Commissioner Meyer offered to check in w/ the Sherwood Center to determine if it is even being used & what our conference discount might be.
    - o (3) Budget
      - TBD at this time. The virtual conference is obviously considerably less expensive, as there is no food or location fee involved. Channel 16 had for 2020 offered their studio space for free for the day they would prefer working at Sherwood, and, again, would offer their services free, as we are a county entity.
    - o (4) Marketing
      - While we are not ready to pursue a marketing plan at this time, it is hoped with the broad brush of the conference

theme we will be engaging a much larger, age diverse and ethnically diverse crowd.

### Awards Committee - Commissioner Garvey-Hodge Reported:

- Since Commissioner Wilson is no longer on the History Commission, there is plenty of opportunity to get involved.
- Looking to prepare a news release related to the Jack Hiller Award:
  - https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/history-commission/awardsprograms#:~:text=The%20Jack%20L.,its%20places%20and%20its%20residents

#### Advocacy - Commissioner Stuntz

There was no Advocacy report for the night.

#### **Commission Member Reports**

#### ARB Report - Commissioner Murray

There was no ARB report for the night.

#### Website - Chair Repetti

There was no Website report for the night.

## Fairfax City Report - Commissioner Meyer Reported:

Commissioner Meyer reported that Fairfax City has started a stakeholder group that will take a holistic look at equity in all City functions. This will be a partnership with the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Mary Hoch Reconciliation Center, at GMU. This group will come to City Council with recommended name changes (such as Confederate-related items), priorities, programs, and budget all focused on the lens of equity. The first listening and learning session "Crossroads of Conflict" will be virtual, held on February 4, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. The link for the information was sent out to Commissioners.

Commissioner Meyer mentioned that the Jermantown Cemetery was created in 1870 originally as an African-American cemetery of former slaves. Its fortunes have been inconsistent over the decades, and the City Public Works Department has been maintaining the property.

#### Announcements

 Ms. Elizabeth Crowell again thanked the History Commission for awarding funds for better technological equipment.

#### Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, the February 3, 2021, History Commission Meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ryan Johnson

Clerk, Ad Interim, Fairfax County History Commission

Steve Sherman, Corresponding Secretary Fairfax County History Commission

Date: 7/12/2/