

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
December 4, 2019

On December 4, 2019, the Fairfax County History Commission held its regular monthly meeting at the Fairfax City Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax, VA 22030.

Commissioners Present:

Anne Barnes
Gretchen Bulova
Michael Irwin
Phyllis Walker Ford
Lynne Garvey-Hodge
Mary Lipsey

Sallie Lyons
Barbara Naef
Cheryl-Ann Repetti
Steve Sherman
Anne Stuntz
Jordan Tannenbaum
Greg Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

Bob Beach
Carole Herrick
Glen Fatzinger
Esther McCullough
Elise Murray
Barbara Peters

County Liaisons Present:

Denice Dressel, Fairfax County Department of Planning & Development;
Elizabeth Crowell, Stephanie Langton; Fairfax County Park Authority;
Chris Barbuschak, Virginia Room, Fairfax City Regional Library.

Guests Present	Organization	Area of Interest
Jehanne Arslan	Hunter Mill Defense League	Historic Overlay District Cultural Landscape
Allie May Brown	Commissioner Lyon's Mother	History
Sheila Dunheimer	Hunters Village Association	Historic Overlay Districts

Call to Order

The December 4, 2019, History Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Anne Stuntz at 7:30 p.m. She asked guests in the audience to introduce themselves.

Presentation Overview of Department of Planning and Development's Heritage Resources - Staff Presenter – Denice Dressel

Summary of the Planning and Development Process:
Protecting and Preserving Resources.

Promote Citizen Awareness

- Four staff persons working within the program, three full-time positions serve as heritage resource planners and one part-time heritage resource technician.
- Two major documents used by Heritage Resources are *Fairfax County Heritage Resource Management Plan* and *Policy Plan of the Comprehensive Plan for Fairfax County*.
- Four main strategies are used by them. She explained how these strategies are used to carry out their work:
 - Identification
 - Evaluation
 - Treatment
 - Education/Outreach
- Ms. Dressel went on to explain the following:
 - Identification through surveying
 - Evaluation through Inventory nomination
 - Inventory and the Comprehensive Plan
 - Historic Overlay Districts
 - Heritage Resource review development process
 - Other Heritage Resources efforts
- Four staff persons working with the program, Each of the three full-time positions serves as a heritage resource planner but handles different duties, as follows:
 - Laura Arseneau - Among other duties, serves as liaison to the ARB. Handles intake processing for ARB cases and prepares for ARB Meeting.
 - Nicole Brannan - Among other duties, handles staff reports for ARB development review for proposals.
 - Denice Dressel, among other duties, serves as liaison to the History Commission and oversees survey program.
 - C. Davis, part-time historic resource technician.
- Two major documents used by Heritage Resources are *Fairfax County Heritage Resource Management Plan* and *Policy Plan of the Comprehensive Plan for Fairfax County*.
- Four main strategies are used by them. She explained how these strategies are used to carry out their work
 - Identification
 - Evaluation
 - Treatment
 - Education/Outreach

- Ms. Dressel went on to explain the following:
 - Inventory nomination process
 - Heritage Resource efforts
 - Historic Overlay District process

After the presentation, Ms. Dressel responded to questions from the Commissioners.

Approval of the Minutes November 6, 2019

A motion was made by Commissioner Naef, seconded by Commissioner Barnes, **to approve the History Commission Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2019, as presented, and to pay the Clerk.**

A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Reports for December 4, 2019 - Commissioner Stuntz Reported:
The treasurer's report as of November 30, 2019, shows an ending balance of **\$68,453.98** and Park Authority/History Conference account balance of **\$ 2,665.44.**

The full Treasurer's report for December 4, 2019, is attached to these Minutes.

New Business

National Alliance for Preservation Commissions – Commissioner Tannenbaum Reported:

Commissioner Tannenbaum's suggestion that the History Commission join the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC).

After a brief discussion regarding membership in the NAPC, a motion was made by Commissioner Naef, seconded by Commissioner Garvey-Hodge, **that the History Commission become a member of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions.**

A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

History Commission Strategic Plan – Commission Wilson

Commissioner Wilson thanked all who submitted their responses and noted he received only four responses. He encouraged the rest of the Commissioners to provide their responses as soon as possible. He added that he is working on a document for public comments for the History Commission website.

Cemetery Preservation

Commissioner Lipsey reported that the next Cemetery Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, Conference Room 103.

Alternatives to Demolition

Discussion was held regarding getting volunteers to do research on demolition alternative. After further discussion and suggestions, Commissioner Bulova offered to have further discussion with Commission Lyons about contacting a college friend at the University of Mary Washington.

It was announced that Senator Scott Surovell will be speaking at the ARB meeting on December 12, at 6:30 p.m., at the Government Center – Conference Room 4&5. His presentation will be on Historic Preservation Law in Virginia.

History Commission Member - Fairfax City

The History Commission Bylaws and Resolution were changed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to include a Commissioner from Fairfax City as a History Commission Member.

Concerning the change in the History Commission Bylaws, a motion was made by Commissioner Naef, seconded by Commission Barnes, that the History Commission **accept the new bylaws as approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 3, 2019.**

After a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Soapstone Connector/Association Drive

Commissioner Tannenbaum reported that he has not heard anything yet regarding Soapstone Connector/Association Drive. He added that the FHWA has to move forward and start the process.

Staff Reports

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

- Working with Denice and Leanna and other staff from Department of Planning on Cemetery Preservation as a NIP item.
- Continuing with archaeology at Riverbend Park
- Continuing with archaeology at Mt. Air. Going to ARB on that either in January or February.
- Planning to bring presentation on proposed collections facilities to the ARB in December and to the History Commission in January. However the process has been delayed.

- Working with Friends of Archaeology at Gunston Hall.
- Worked with Greg and provided with pdf images of signage of markers.

Heritage Conservation Branch – Stephanie Langton Reported:

Museum Collections

- The Collections Office hosted the quarterly Collections Committee Meeting at the classroom of Ellanor C. Lawrence Park on November 12.
- The Collections Assistant attended the quarterly Historic House Museum Consortium Meeting at Florida House on November 13.
- The Collections Office continues to plan for the renovations that will occur at Sully Historic Site in January, 2020.

Operations & Maintenance Projects

- Heritage Conservation Staff is working with FCPA GIS technicians to create property maintenance forms using the new GIS database layer for the Park Authority's historic sites. These fillable maintenance forms will be used in the field on iPads and will streamline the process for property inspections and for reporting maintenance items.
- Staff is currently working on an SOP for Heritage Conservation Operations Maintenance and Inspections as well as an SOP for Historic Structure Reports and Treatment Plans.

Volunteers – HSVC

- Historic Sites Volunteer Corps hosted a landscape cleanup day at the Lamond property on Saturday, November 9th. Eleven volunteers attended.

Virginia Room report: Chris Barbuschak:

- Thanked the Commissioners for allowing the Virginia Room to have an outreach table at the Fairfax County History Conference.
- On November 13th, 2019, the Virginia Room staff with the help of 18 volunteers, many of whom were from the Fairfax Genealogical Society, completely moved all of the Virginia Room's 1,308 shelves-worth of books in less than 7 hours into a completely new user-friendly arrangement with room for expansion for new books. The shift was the culmination of months of planning.
- The library rolled out its brand-new Polaris catalog system on November 13. It replaced the old library's catalog which had been in use since 2002.
- West Potomac High School has lent the Virginia Room their complete collection of Groveton and Fort Hunt high school yearbooks to be scanned, and those should be publicly available online sometime next year.
- A finding aid was created for the Clifford Currie Collection on Colvin Run Mill which included logbooks, engineering drawings, and over 400 slides that Currie used to document the restoration of the mill from 1968-1972 as the millwright engineer. The slides have been digitized and shared with the Park Authority.
- Marjorie Lundegard, longtime Colvin Run Mill volunteer and author of several books about mills donated her and her husband's Robert Lundgeard's research on Virginia mills. It consists of eight boxes of research.

Department of Planning and Development (DPD) – Denice Dressel Reported:

- City of Fairfax Representation – Staff provided the Board the amended History Commission Resolution and bylaws at its December 3 meeting. Chairman Stuntz was there to answer questions. Both the resolution and bylaws were approved by the Board. Will forward the final adopted resolution and bylaws to the entire Commission once received.
- Cemetery Preservation – The draft response to the Board's request to investigate what changes would be needed to the History Commission's Resolution and bylaws to incorporate cemetery preservation efforts into the Commission's mission is under review. Since it was found that no changes to the Resolution and bylaws were needed, the memo will go to the Board as information only item. Staff is attempting to have it to the Board before the members retire.
- ICARE Information and Tax Abatement follow-up – Last month's meeting was rescheduled to this month. Next week, staff will be meeting with representatives from the Department of Taxation and the County Executive's Office to continue the discussion of Supervisor McKay's request to investigate the creation of a tax abatement program for historic properties in the county.
- Reston Survey – Also postponed from last month, staff will host a joint kick off meeting with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for the Reston architectural survey on Tuesday December 17 at 7:00 pm in the Rose Gallery of the Lake Anne Reston Community Center. This will be a public meeting to provide community members and interested parties an opportunity to learn more about the survey.
- McLean Survey – Staff will be presenting the results of the architectural survey conducted this past spring to the McLean Task Force on Monday, December 16 at 7:00 pm at the McLean Government Center.
- Barn at Lebanon – Staff was contacted last week by NOVA Parks about the potential demolition of the barn at Lebanon. NOVA Parks is studying the situation and will be keeping us informed as the project progresses. Please let me know if you are interested in receiving the structural evaluation provided by NOVA Parks.
- ARB Member needed – Sully District – Jason Sutphin is stepping down from the ARB soon. Laura Arseneau is asking members of the Commission if you all might know of anyone who lives in the Sully District that would be interested in taking his position. Mr. Sutphin occupies a "related profession" position on the Board, so there is some flexibility as to their specialty. If you know of anyone, please let Laura or me know.
- Hollin Hills HOD – Laura Arseneau and Nicole Brannan will be briefing the History Commission at its January meeting on the elements and progress of the Hollin Hills Historic Overlay District study.

- Soapstone Connector (Hunter Mill District) – No update to date.
- Association Drive (Hunter Mill District) – No resubmittal to date.

Nominating Committee – Anne Barnes - Chair

The slate of offices for the History Commission for 2020 was presented by the Nominating Committee, consisting of Anne Barnes, Chair; Barbara Naef, Member, And Mary Lipsey, Member.

- Anne Stuntz, Chair
- Jordan Tannenbaum, Vice Chair
- Steve Sherman, Secretary
- Barbara Peters, Treasurer

A motion was made by Commission Lipsey, seconded by Commissioner Garvey-Hodge, **to elect the officers of the History Commission as indicated above.**

The motion carried by acclamation.

Inventory Committee – Commissioner Murray

Inventory report will be given at next meeting.

Marker Committee – Commissioner Lipsey

Commission Lipsey had no Marker report for the night.

Ethnic and Oral History – Commissioner McCullough

No report was given for the night.

Resident Curator Program – Stephanie Langton Reported:

- The evaluation team for Hannah P. Clark/Enyedi selected a curator, for residential use of the house and use of the Enyedi studio as an artist studio. The curator works in historic preservation at Mount Vernon and owns a business specializing in the restoration and construction of historic doors and windows.
- Staff is working with Park Operations to install electricity, design and install septic, and connect to public water at Barrett.
- Asbestos abatement at White Gardens will begin shortly.
- Staff received on application for Lahey Lost Valley. It is currently under financial review.
- The evaluation team for Ellmore Farmhouse selected ServiceSource as the curator. The decision is pending Director's Office review and approval. ServiceSource proposes a nonprofit use of the farmhouse as a gathering space for its Long Term and Community Integration Services program. ServiceSource is required to obtain a special exception for this use of the property.

- The resident curator for the Turner Farmhouse is preparing her special exception application to apply for approval for use of the property, specifically, the garage structure as a retreat center. Recent improvements to the farmhouse include the following: covering the exposed insulation at the foundation, finishing the basement of the farmhouse with flooring, plumbing, electrical work and improvements to the foundation of the garage structure including repairing penetrations and upgrading drainage.
- Upcoming projects for the curator's second year at the Stempson House include: continued grounds clean up and landscaping, removing the security grates from the windows, painting all interior trim and install new shoe molding, and painting the exterior of the house.
- Work on the Historic Structure Report and Treatment Plan for Dranesville Tavern is underway.
- A Treatment Plan for the Sears House was completed.

Budget Committee – Commissioner Murray

Budget Report will be given next month.

Bylaws Committee – Commissioner Barnes

Commissioner Barnes reported that the committee did not meet. She noted that she is planning a meeting for next month on a date to be decided.

Advocacy – Commissioner Herrick

There was no Advocacy Committee report for the night.

History Conference Committee – Commissioner Garvey-Hodge Reported:

- Commissioner Garvey-Hodge thanked all for a very successful conference.
- All Commissioners thanked Commissioner Garvey-Hodge for leading such a very successful conference.
- She gave special thanks to Commissioner Wilson for taking photographs.
- Evaluations were good and all reimbursements have been received.
- Next committee meeting will be on January 27, 2020, to discuss lessons learned
- Have received information that the Commission will not receive a discount from the City of Fairfax for hall rental next year. The rent will be \$5,500 for the Sherwood facilities.
- An alternative is Lorton Workhouse, which is \$3000. Another alternative is Riverview at Occoquan, which is \$680 and can seat up to 400 people.
- There cannot be a meeting in January 2020, as no room is available. The committee agreed to email connections and will meet February 26, 2020, at Fairfax City Public Library.

Awards Committee - Commissioner Garvey-Hodge Reported:

- All w-9s are in and signed correctly.
- The total of all awards was \$600.

Commissioner Tannenbaum thanked Commissioner Garvey-Hodge for doing such a great job with the conference.

ARB – Commissioner Murray

There was no ARB report for the night.

Website – Commissioner Repetti Reported:

All updates have been added to the website

Announcements/News

Commissioner Garvey-Hodge announced that she hosted a movie filming at her home, in which people with stage 4 cancer were interviewed. She added, among other things, that the stories of those individuals were very humbling. The study, she noted will be used to document drug use that worked or did not work.

Commissioner Wilson gave a quick update that the Ox Hill Battlefield educational app is proceeding, with an expected public release date of June 2020. The Fairfax County Park Authority was helpful in sharing their interpretive panels for the park thanks to Liz Crowell.

Commissioner Tannenbaum announced that he will be meeting in a few weeks with the new Army Museum staff. He noted that, if the History Commissioners are interested, he could try to arrange a tour for them also.


Commissioner Lyons announced that she toured the historic Biltmore estate during the Candlelight Christmas event. She noted that the mansion was stunning, and many areas were open and interpreted that usually are closed.

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, the December 4, 2019, History Commission Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Winifred A. Clement-Nelson
Clerk, Fairfax County History Commission



Steve Sherman, Corresponding Secretary, Ad Interim
Fairfax County History Commission

Date:

December 4, 2019

Fairfax County History Commission

Treasurer Report

FOCUS Account as of November 30, 2019

Beginning balance:	November 1, 2019	\$ 68,453.98
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Revenue:

11/1/2019	Budget Adjustment (Interest)	\$ 72.08
11/5/2019	McLean Historical Society (marker)	500.00
11/5/2019	Friends of McLean Community (marker)	800.00

Expenses:

11/7/2019	Transfer to Park Authority - Awards funding	\$ 600.00
11/22/2019	Winifred Clement-Nelson (minutes 10/2/2019)	\$ 515.00
11/22/2019	FICA & Medicare	\$ 39.40

Ending balance:	November 30, 2019	\$ 68,671.66
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Park Authority/History Conference Account

(Conference accounting - page 2)

Balance (11/30/2019)	\$ 2,665.44
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Submitted by: Barbara Peters, FCHC Treasurer

History Conference 2019

Revenue:

Conference registrations:

75 attendees @ 25	\$1875	(includes 18 commissioners & 2 staff)
8 tables @ 15	120	
3 authors @ 15	<u>45</u>	
	\$2045	

Expenses:

Facility rental	843.75	
Jason's Deli	\$2911.46	(110 portions)
Wegman's cakes	116.00	
Burke Florist	115.00	
Copies	104.72	
Decorations/supplies	221.77	
Awards	196.25	
Monetary awards	600.00	
Honorariums	<u>400.00</u>	

Total: \$5508.95