

March 4, 2020

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
February 5, 2020

On February 5, 2020, 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	Esther McCullough
Bob Beach	Elise Murray
Phyllis Walker Ford	Barbara Naef
Carole Herrick	Barbara Peters
Lynne Garvey-Hodge	Cheryl-Ann Repetti
Michael Irwin	Steve Sherman
Mary Lipsey	Anne Stuntz
Sallie Lyons	Greg Wilson
Tammy Mannarino	

David Meyer (Pending)

Commissioners Absent:

Gretchen Bulova, Excused
Jordan Tannenbaum, Excused

County Liaisons Present:

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

Guests Present

Organization

Area of Interest

None

Call to Order

The February 5, 2020, History Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Anne Stuntz at 7:30 p.m.

In response to a request from the Chair for guests in the audience to introduce themselves, newly appointed Commissioner Tammy Mannarino announced that she is Commissioner Fatzinger's replacement, and that she will be introducing herself and presenting her credentials at the next meeting. Commissioner Mannarino was appointed January 28, 2020.

Approval of the Minutes - January 8, 2020

A motion was made by Commissioner Lipsey, seconded by Commissioner Murray, **to approve the History Commission Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2020, as written.**

Commissioner Lyons requested that the following corrections be made to the announcement section of the Minutes:

- Correct Fairfax City Library to read Martha Washington Library
- Correct Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society to read Mt. Vernon Historical Society.

A vote was taken; the motion carried, and the Minutes were approved unanimously as corrected.

Treasurer's Reports for February 5, 2020 - Commissioner Barbara Peters Reported:

The treasurer's report for the period ending January 30, 2020, shows an ending balance of **\$67,639.79** and Park Authority/History Conference account balance of **\$2,546.13 for the same period.**

The full Treasurer's report for January 5, 2020, is attached to these Minutes.

Unfinished Business

History Commission Strategic Plan – Commissioner Wilson Reported:

Commissioner Wilson reported that he received responses from only eight Commissioners, which represents about 38% of the Commission. He added that although this is a small percentage, the overall feedback was very informative, constructive and positive, and is a good starting point. Some of the points he considered are listed below:

- What's Working Well
 - Working well together as a group across the board
 - Working well together with County staff
 - Working well with signature programs, such is Inventory, Markers, Awards, and Conference
- What Needs Improvements
 - Expand community visibility
 - Clarify Commission's role
 - Reduce surprise bureaucratic mandates
 - Conduct tighter, shorter meetings

- New Initiatives
 - Stronger preservation
 - Commemorations - plan in advance
 - Interpretation and information on historic sites
 - Information clearing house role
 - Greater and better outreach, such as social media, etc.
 - Capture oral history, especially from older adults
 - Full time staff person
- Priorities
 - Establishing greater protective power for historic preservation
 - Preserving for Inventory of Historic Sites
 - Improving outreach
 - Expanding conference attendance
 - Increase staff support
 - Making regular commission reports to BOS
- Improve preservation process
 - Staffing
 - Working with Board
 - Streamlining the preservation process
 - Establishing greater accountability
 - Working with tools of the process
- Adequate resources
 - Need for adequate staff support
 - Need for greater youth initiatives, which could include internship or advisory membership
- Process Time Line
 - Basically still on track
- Next Step
 - Next discussion will start in March
 - Now receiving information from the public
- Homework
 - Asked Commissioners to be in contact with and update their individual supervisors on the process

In discussion, the Commissioners concluded a meeting of the whole should be held to discuss priorities and initiatives to determine what is realistically achievable; to focus on what can be done, as opposed to what the Commission cannot do.

After further discussion regarding timing for meetings to discuss the plan, Commissioner Wilson was asked to consult with his committee and propose a time.

Task Force on History Commission as Consulting Party – Commissioner Beach Reported:

After brief discussion, it was decided that the Chair of the work group will contact Denice Dressel to set up a meeting with the Office of the County Attorney.

Preservation of Historic Structures – Commissioner Lyons Reported:

Commissioner Lyons offered to work with new Mount Vernon Commissioner Tammy Mannarino to discuss the Virginia statues with Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck, in order to generate a board matter requesting a study for better implementation of state language regarding preservation **of historic structures from demolition.**

Soapstone Connector/Association Drive

No new update has been received.

Virginia Proffer Law Update – Commissioner Naef Reported:

Virginia General Assembly has enacted changes to the law. It will take some time to assess any significance of changes.

Update on Turning Point Suffrage Memorial – Commissioner Beach Reported:

- There is not enough money, therefore, some of the elements may either not be built or will be done later. However, eventually, all work will be done on the rotunda
- Ribbon cutting will be done in August
- History Commission gave a donation of \$1000 in the past
- Received \$200,000 from Fairfax County Government
- He has been asked to speak to the *Home and Garden* Show February 22 & 23 at 11 a.m.

Concerning the need for funding for the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, a motion was made by Commissioner Garvey-Hodge, seconded by Commissioner McCullough, **that the History Commission donate \$2000 to the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.**

After discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion carried, with Commissioner Beach abstaining.

Commissioner Beach thanked the History Commission for its continuous support of the memorial.

Staff Reports

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

- Staff is continuing Phase I fieldwork and laboratory analysis for archaeological studies at Riverbend and Mount Air.
- Staff continues to update archaeological collections. Among the tasks have been returning non-Fairfax County archaeological collections to their appropriate jurisdictions. In the early years of the program, staff accepted pretty much any materials that were donated. As part of the AAM accreditation process, staff developed a Scope of Collections for archaeological materials. This includes the return of non- Fairfax County materials. Thus far, staff has returned collections to other jurisdictions in Virginia.
- ACB staff is working with staff from Outreach and Interpretation to develop interpretive signage. This includes signage being developed to interpret the African American presence at Freedom Hill and in the area of the original courthouse in Vienna. Staff is working with members of the African American and Native American community in the development of this signage.
- ACB staff is working with Ramona Carroll, Community Interfaith Coordinator for the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services on the development and installation of an exhibit for Black History month.
- ACB staff and staff from County Department of Planning and Development have been working with the History Commission and the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association. An information Item (Cemetery NIP) was submitted to the BOS. Commissioners Lipsey and Stuntz met with Park Authority and Department of Planning and Development staff to decide next steps.
- ACB staff reviewed and provided text for the Hollin Hills Historic Overlay District nomination. DPD staff made a presentation to the Park Authority Board on the proposed nomination.
- On Saturday, February 1, Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources (FOFA) held its Annual Meeting at the James Lee Center. Sean Devlin from Mount Vernon was the speaker. The meeting was well attended. Commissioners Lyons, Repetti, and Naef were in attendance.
- The Council of Virginia Archaeologists (COVA) will be holding its winter meeting in Richmond on February 28.
- ACB staff is reviewing Inventory nominations for Carter/Taliaferro cemetery and Willie Preston Gravesite.
- The annual symposium cosponsored by Gunston Hall, ACB, and FOFA will be held on March 14 at Gunston Hall. The theme of the symposium is Transportation.
Chelsea Cohen, Catherine Davis, Chris Sperling, Molly Kerr, and Sara Rivers-Cofield will be presenting,

- The Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference (MAAC) will be holding its 50th Anniversary meetings on March 19-22 in Ocean City, Maryland. Numerous ACB staff is presenting.

**Heritage Conservation Branch – Diana Inthavong Reported:
Museum Collections**

- The Collections Office spent almost the entirety of January based out of Sully Historic Site to execute and oversee the packing of the collections at Sully for the renovation project. Packing was completed ahead of schedule and the building was turned over to the contractors on January 27th.
- The loan of two items from the DAR to Sully Historic Site was approved for renewal until January 2022.
- A charcoal photograph of a member of the Millard family was sent out for digitization and reproduction. The reproduction will be framed and hung in the Miller's House at Colvin Run Mill when it reopens in the summer.

Operations & Maintenance Projects

- Heritage Conservation Staff is still working with FCPA GIS technicians to create property maintenance forms using our new GIS database layer for the Park Authority's historic sites. These fillable maintenance forms will be used in the field on our iPads and will streamline the process for property inspections and for reporting maintenance items.
- Staff is still working with GIS technicians to prepare a map of active and potential Resident Curator Program properties for the Resident Curator Program website.
- Staff completed an SOP for cleaning historic properties, and is now working on an SOP for historic property inspections.
- Staff is also following closely with the renovation progress at Sully Historic Site.

Volunteers – HSVC

- Historic Sites Volunteer Corps hosted a Meet & Greet event on January 22nd at Hunter House in Nottaway Park, Vienna. We had a great turn out with 9 new volunteers.
- The next HSVC event is a landscape clean-up at the Clark/Enyedi House in Lorton on Saturday, March 14.
- Staff is planning its first advanced HSVC project. A Historic Preservation student will be restoring a mantle in Hunter House.
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Virginia Room report: Chris Barbuschak Reported:

- The Virginia Room acquired from the Montgomery County, Maryland Historical Society three interesting school workbooks created by members of the Johnston family of Fairfax County. These mathematical surveying workbooks date from 1828-1840 and are filled with script, drawings, sums, and mathematical equations.
- On January 11th the Virginia Room gave a tour and overview of resources to the Providence Chapter of the Virginia DAR.

- Two new interns:
 - Johana Flores, of Wayne State University is processing collections and creating finding aids. She just finished processing the McLean Junior Woman's Club records and will be working on making Bob and Marjorie Lundegard's collection of research on grist mills available to the public.
 - A West Springfield Applied History student will be digitizing and indexing four binders-worth of slides of historic Fairfax County structures.
- 76 newly digitized Fairfax County Public School high school yearbooks were uploaded onto Internet Archive this past month.
- Laura Wickstead taught genealogy classes at the Herndon Fortnightly library branch, Fairfax County Government Center, and the South County Government Center this month.
- On January 29th, Virginia Room staff had a meeting with the archivists from the Fairfax Courthouse's Historic Records Center, George Mason University, and the City of Fairfax Museum to discuss what each repository collects relating to Fairfax County and how we can collaborate more.
- Tysons Corner Library has an historic postcards exhibit from the collections of the Virginia Room.

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

- Membership updates - On January 28, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved the reappointment of Commissioners Naef, Ford, Murray, Peters, and Stuntz, and the appointment of Tammy Mannarino to the History Commission.
- Inventory Nominations – Staff received two nominations to the Inventory of Historic Sites. The first is the Carter/Taliaferro Cemetery and the second is the "Willie" Preston grave site. Both are currently under review by Archaeology and Collections Branch before being forwarded to the Inventory Committee for their review.
- Holmes Run Acres HOD – On January 14, 2020, Supervisor Palchik, Providence District, made a motion for staff to evaluate the potential establishment of a Historic Overlay District for Holmes Run Acres. The motion carried unanimously, after some discussion with Barbara Byron, Planning and Development Director, regarding timing and staff constraints.
- City of Fairfax Representation – On January 28, 2020, the Fairfax City Council voted unanimously to nominate Mayor David Meyer as the Fairfax City representative on the History Commission. Staff has heard from Chairman McKay's office that Mr. Meyer's nomination will be brought to the Board of Supervisor's for approval later this month.
- Cemetery Preservation – On January 29, 2020, at the request of Supervisor McKay, staff met with Chairman Stuntz, Commission member Lipsey, Liz Crowell and Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director of the Park Authority, to discuss outstanding issues and next steps for the History Commission's Cemetery Committee's official relationship with the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association.

- McLean Survey – Staff is working on draft text for the Comprehensive Plan amendment for the McLean CBC, using the results of the architectural survey to inform the recommendations. If you would like to see the results of the survey, they are online. Search for “McLean Planning Study.” Commissioner Herrick has offered some edits to the historical timeline included in the report, and we are working to decide how best to address the revisions.
- Reston Survey – The fieldwork for the Reston Architectural Survey is scheduled to start mid-February.
- Tax Abatement Board Matter – The Department of Taxation is studying the potential fiscal impact of a potential tax abatement program. No update to date.
- Barn at Lebanon (Mount Vernon District) – No update from NOVA Parks to date.
- Soapstone Connector (Hunter Mill District) – No update to date.
- Association Drive (Hunter Mill District) – No resubmittal to date.

Commissioner Naef inquired as to whether the Commission would be addressing the National Register nomination for USGS Building in Reston. It was noted that comments are due before the next History Commission meeting. Any comments regarding this matter should be e-mailed to Denice Dressel by the end of the month.

Committee Reports:

Inventory Committee – Commissioner Murray

There was no inventory Committee report for the night.

Marker Committee – Commissioner Lipsey

There was no Marker Committee report for the night.

Ethnic and Oral History – Commissioner McCullough

Commissioner McCullough reported that there was no report for the night.

Commissioner Beach reported that last month he unofficially had a conversation with former Board of Supervisors' Chair, Sharon Bulova, and asked whether she would be willing to participate in the History Commission oral history program. He noted that she replied in the affirmative. He added that the discussion also involved asking the other recently retired supervisors to participate in the oral history program as well, including former supervisor Hyland.

Commissioner Beach asked all History Commissioners to reach out to their individual supervisors regarding participating in oral history.
Commissioner Lipsey will be drafting questions for the project.

Resident Curator Program – Commissioner Beach Reported:

- A draft lease is underway for Hannah P. Clark/Enyedi. The selected curator will use the house as primary residence and 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 one application for Lahey Lost Valley, and is preparing the evaluation team review meeting schedule. This includes a public meeting during which the applicant presents his proposal for the use and rehabilitation of the property, public comment is taken and the evaluation team members comment and ask questions. The final meeting schedule will be shared in a FCPA Information Release, posted on the Resident Curator Program website and an email sent to the RCP stakeholders email distribution list.
- 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. The curator has invested a total of \$165,000 as of January 2020, with \$90,000 towards the required investment and \$75,000 towards equestrian and other discretionary improvements.
- The Stempson House curator has invested a total of \$71,000 as of January 2020. Upcoming projects include the following: Removing the security grating from first floor windows, repairing and repainting the roof, and painting all interior trim in the house.
- Work on the Historic Structure Report and Treatment Plan for Dranesville Tavern is underway.

Budget Committee – Commissioner Murray

Commissioner Murray noted that the budget report will be given at the March 4th meeting.

Bylaws Committee – Commissioner Barnes Reported:

The revised bylaws were distributed and discussed at the meeting. Commissioner Barnes reported that the Bylaws Committee met earlier today before the full History Commission meeting and considered one agenda item. The committee considered the Audit Committee name change from *Audit Committee* to *Financial Review Committee*. She added that the suggested name change will be voted on next month at the full History Commission Meeting.

As required, the amendment will be mailed to all Commissioners absent from the meeting tonight prior to the vote at the next meeting.

Advocacy – Commissioner Herrick Reported:

Commissioner Herrick reported that the Advocacy Committee met will meet Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at the Freedman Store in Vienna, at 11:30 a.m. .

History Conference Committee – Commissioner Garvey-Hodge Reported:

- Commissioner Garvey-Hodge read a thank-you note she received from Judge Rohulamin Quander, for being the keynote speaker at the 2019 history conference. .
- She is still looking for a location for the 2020 History Conference. She noted that Possible sites being considered are:
 - River view – available on November 7th only
 - Lorton Art Center – charges \$3,300
 - Sherwood – current charge is \$5000 is too high. Mayor Meyer is the contact should the Commission decides to use Sherwood.
 - Lucy Bern Memorial Museum was suggested but will cost \$7000
- Kirk Douglas died today at 103.
- The next conference committee meeting is February 26, at 7:30 p.m., Room 103, Fairfax City Public Library.

Awards Committee - Commissioner Garvey-Hodge Reported:

- Due June 1, 2020

Cemetery Preservation – Commissioner Lipsey Reported

- Commissioner Lipsey reported on January 14, 2020, the Cemetery Committee met with County staff. She noted that they reviewed and made changes to the draft Memorandum of Understanding and discussed goals of what friends group will do.
- They are considering asking the Board of Supervisors for funding
- They met with Park Authority and held discussion

ARB – Commissioner Murray

November 11, 2019 and December 12, 2019 Meetings

At both the November and December meetings other than Board and Staff Items, the only items on the agenda were presentations.

- November:
 - Dogue Creek Bridge Replacement- Fort Belvoir by Robin Ernstrom, P.E., USACE and Christine Heacock, Cultural Resources Program Manager, Ft. Belvoir with other staff and consultants in attendance

- December:
 - Presentation #1
 - Historic Preservation in the Commonwealth by:
Senator Scott Surovell, Virginia 36
 - Presentation #2
 - Turning Point Suffragist Memorial at Occoquan Regional Park, by:
Patricia Depew Wirth, Executive Director, CEO of the Turning Point Memorial and Robert Beach, AIA, Principal, R.E. Beach Architects
 - Presentation #3
 - Tree Removal and Non-compliance in Bull Run Bridge Historic Overlay District at and around the Bull Run Winery by:
Sheila Dunheimer, Co-Chair Coalition to Replace Gabrielson Bridge, Hunter Mill Defense League
Jehanne Arslan, Co- Founder Coalition to Replace Gabrielson Bridge, Hunter Mill Defense League
Dawn Battle, Stonebridge Chase Homeowner
Michael Mann, Stonebridge Chase Homeowner
Vince Stammetti, Stonebridge Chase Homeowner

Homes Run Acres: At the instigation of outgoing Supervisor Linda Smythe, DPD staff is looking into creating an Historic Overlay District for the Holmes Run Acres subdivision. Members of the community have been expressing interest since the Hollin Hills process started. In the past the community met with Preservation Planner Linda Blank and elected not to pursue a Historic Overlay District.

Website – Commissioner Repetti Reported:

Submitted the public version of the survey for the History Commission strategic planning process for the website. This version, as explained, is shorter and more user friendly.

Announcements/News

Commissioner Lipsey stated that she had discussed with the staff at Supervisor Walkinshaw's office the historical importance of Omer Hirst's home on Narnia Court, in Burke. She added that the staff member had indicated that neighbors were concerned and had called the office about what they had seen happening on the property. She noted that investigations found that, so far, there were no applications for building permits and the owner was in violation.

Commissioner Lyons announced as follows:

- Mount Vernon Regional Society annual meeting was well attended. There were 70 persons in attendance. Mt. Vernon census by Kim Gibson was well received.
- FOFA annual meeting was well attended.

Commissioner Naef announced as follows:

- Supervisor Walter Alcorn had his first town hall meeting Monday night, and it was well attended. He was on Planning Commission and Park Authority Board for many years.
- Reston survey consultant got back to her
- Referenced announcement from American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) about the upcoming American Revolution 250th anniversary - Semiquincentennial
- Supervisor Alcorn is holding an open house for his BAC appointees on Valentine Day

Commissioner Murray announced that her supervisor will hold an open house for his appointees on boards and commissions on February 14.

Commissioner Beach announced that his son-in-law is getting his PhD. in History and is working at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site in the City of Alexandria.

Commissioner Irwin announced that late last month Supervisor Dalia Palchik had an open house meeting with the community and he had a conversation with her. He added that she said her goal is to meet with all her Boards/commissions appointees one on one. He noted that he will keep the Commission apprised of developments.

Commissioner Wilson announced as follows:

- Mike Henry, who retired from Colvin Run Mill, was honored by Great Falls Historical Society and was given Jean Tibbetts Award. He noted that Mr. Tibbetts will be coming back as a volunteer.
- New Miller's House unveiling will take place July 18. No other information is available at this time.

Commissioner Herrick reported that there was a rededication of a State Historical Marker at Baileys Cross Roads this afternoon. She added that Supervisor Gross noted that she will be making a suggestion to the Board of Supervisors that anyone taking down a marker should have his/her name written and signed and indicate why the marker is being taken down.

Mayor Meyer announced that the Bank of America Building across from the court house is empty. He noted that he met with the CEO of the company that owns the building, who confirmed that it will not be taken down. He added that there may be some redevelopment in the parking lot of the building.

Commissioner McCullough noted that she has been sick but is happy to be back at the meetings. She thanked Commissioner Beach for his efforts with oral history.


Commissioner Stuntz reporting that she is working on a 1960 exhibit for the Town of Vienna, and that Chris Barbuschak has given her some newspapers on the 1960s. She asked that any commissioners who know of someone who grew up in the 1960s in Vienna with something to share, to let her know.

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, the February 5, 2020, History Commission Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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



Steve Sherman, Corresponding Secretary
Fairfax County History Commission

Date: 3/4/20