

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
November 6, 2019

On November 6, 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	Sallie Lyons
Bob Beach	Esther McCullough
Gretchen Bulova	Elise Murray
Glenn Fatzinger	Barbara Naef
Michael Irwin	Barbara Peters
Phyllis Walker Ford	Cheryl-Ann Repetti
Carole Herrick	Steve Sherman
Lynne Garvey Hodge	Anne Stuntz
Mary Lipsey	Jordan Tannenbaum
	Greg Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

None

County Liaisons Present:

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

Staff Presenters – County Attorney Office:

Laura Gori and Wemi Peters

Guests Present	Organization	Area of Interest
None		

Call to Order

The November 6, 2019, History Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Anne Stuntz at 7:30 p.m. She introduced two guest staff from the County Attorney's office.

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 October 2, 2019, as presented, and to pay the Clerk.

A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Reports for November 6, 2019 – Commissioner Peters Reported:

Commissioner Peters read the treasurer's report and noted that as of October 31, 2019, the Treasurer's report shows an ending balance of \$ \$68,453.98 and Park Authority/History Conference account balance of \$5,275.07.

The full Treasurer's report for November 6, 2019, is attached to these Minutes.

Change in Start Time for the History Commission Regular Meetings

Discussion was held regarding a change in the start time for the History Commission meetings to start at 7:00 p.m., instead of 7:30 P.M. Commissioners gave the pros and cons of starting sooner.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Lipsey, seconded by Commissioner Beach, to start the History Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. on a trial basis from January - June 2020.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed with four Commissioners voting nay.

Presentation – Office of the County Attorney

Closed Session Motion

A motion was made by Commissioner Anne Stuntz, seconded by Commissioner Jordan Tannenbaum, that the History Commission go into Closed Session with attorneys from the County Attorney's Office to discuss specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice, and specifically regarding the authorities granted to the History Commission by the Board of Supervisors through its establishing Resolution, all as permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(7).

After a vote, the motion carried unanimously. The History Commission went into closed session at 7:48 p.m.

Motion to Resume Open Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Stuntz, seconded by Commissioner McCullough, that in accordance with Virginia Code Section 2.2-3712, that the Fairfax County History Commission members certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Session was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in Closed Session.

A roll call vote was taken; the motion carried unanimously. The History Commission resumed open meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Detailed discussion was held regarding the authority of the History Commission with respect to the Consulting Party issues.

A motion was made by Commissioner Naef, seconded by Commissioner Beach, **that the History Commission Chair appoint a task force to work with staff to go to the Board of Supervisors to develop language to broaden the authority of the History Commission with respect to the Consulting Party issues.**

A vote was taken, and the motion carried, with one Commissioner voting nay.

The following Commissioners agreed to work on the task force:

- Bob Beach, Chair
- Barbara Naef
- Cheryl-Ann Repetti
- Anne Stuntz
- Jordan Tannenbaum

New Business

None

Unfinished Business

History Commission Strategic Plan – Commissioner Wilson Presented:

Commissioner Wilson proceeded as followed:

- Discussed key elements of the plan
- Designed to be an open and transparent process
- Talked about the History Commission's plan being consistent with the Board strategic plan
- Reviewed the role of each commissioner, including being fully involved
- Talked of specific goals
- Next steps
 - Schedule interviews with each commissioner
 - Launch public outreach
 - Receive feedback and suggestions

Cemetery Preservation

The Commission discussed the formation and approval of the Cemetery Committee.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Lipsey, seconded by Commissioner Garvey-Hodge, **to create a cemetery committee that will educate Fairfax County residents on the preservation of cemeteries in the County.**

A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Committee members are:

- Mary Lipsey, Chair
- Anne Stuntz
- Barbara Peters
- Cheryl Repetti
- Lynne Garvey-Hodge

The first committee meeting will be scheduled some time in January 2020.

Alternative to Demolition

- Staff will continue discussion with the County Executive's office and Department of Taxation next week on tax abatement.
- Commissioner Murray suggested that Senator Scott Surovell be asked to brief the ARB on the information he provided to the Commission.

Fairfax City Request re History Commission

The scheduled meeting with the Board Chair was held. It was noted that the Board Chair is committed to moving forward with the appointment of a Fairfax City representative on the History Commission.

Soapstone Connector/Association Drive

Commissioner Tannenbaum reported that the process is moving forward to continue compliance with Section 106.

Staff Reports

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

- The Archaeology and Collections Branch continues excavations at Mount Air in preparation for the demolition of the derelict barn and tenant house on the property. Mount Air is within a Historic Overlay District. Archaeology is being done in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance.

- The Archaeology and Collections Branch continues excavations at Riverbend Park in the area where an existing trail is eroding into the river and in an area where a new trail is proposed to be located.
- Archaeology and Collections Branch and Heritage Conservation Branch are working with the Park Authority Planning and Development Division and a consultant on plans for the new Collections Facility. The proposed Collections Facility will be located in Lorton. A meeting has been scheduled for November 7, to discuss final concepts
- Staff from the Archaeology and Collections Branch participated in the Council of Virginia Archaeologists (COVA) and the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV) meetings in Williamsburg from October 24 to October 27.
- At the History Conference this coming weekend, retired Fairfax County archaeologist Mike Johnson will discuss the first 30 years of archaeology in the County and Alisa Pettitt and Jon Mayes, Archaeology & Collections Branch staff, will discuss innovations and emerging technologies staff is using today.

Heritage Conservation Branch – Megan Leining Reported:

Museum Collections

- The artiFACTS blog post for October was submitted, which highlights a plate used at the Great Falls Grange.
- At the request of the Chief of Staff of the current Chairman's Office, the Collections Manager retrieved two accessioned collections items that were being displayed in the Chairman's Suite on October 25.
- The Collections Manager hired a 900-hour part-time Collections Assistant. The new staff member started work on October 28.
- At the request of the Chief of Staff of the Chairman's Office, the Collections Office removed an exhibit that had been placed in one of the Chairman's display cases in the Forum of the Government Center on October 30.
- The Collections Office provided Frying Pan Farm Park with collections objects for a Thanksgiving exhibit in Kidwell Farm House on October 30.
- The Collections Office is planning for the renovations that will occur at Sully Historic Site in January.

Operations & Maintenance Projects

- Heritage Conservation Staff and the FCPA GIS technicians have created a new GIS database layer for the Park Authority's historic sites. This layer will provide convenient access to property data on a desktop or in the field with the use of iPads. It will assist during property inspections.
- Staff is currently working on SOPs for Heritage Conservation Operations Maintenance and Inspections. Staff will begin work on a SOP of Historic Structure Reports and Treatment Plans.

Volunteers – HSVC

- A landscape cleanup was held at the Ash Grove property on Saturday, October 26th. 6 volunteers participated, logging a total of 22.5 volunteer hours.
- For this month's Historic Sites Volunteer Corps project, HSVC will host a landscape cleanup day at the Lamond property on Saturday, November 9th.

Virginia Room report: Laura Wickstead Reported:

- Ms. Wickstead reported that the Library will be closed on Veterans Day and the on the 12th of November for installation of the new system.
- She commended Chris Barbuschak for *the Road to Happiness* showing event.

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

- City of Fairfax Representation – On October 16, staff from the Department of Planning and Development and Chairman Stuntz met with Chairman Bulova to discuss the appointment of a representative from City of Fairfax to the Commission. Chairman Bulova expressed her wish to move forward with the appointment, noting that Fairfax City shares a common history with the County; representation on the History Commission will allow for the City to have the opportunity to participate in the County's historic education and preservation efforts.

Staff will be presenting the amended History Commission Resolution and bylaws to the Board at its December 3 meeting. Commissioner Barnes provided the entire History Commission a digital copy of the revised bylaws on October 28. A paper copy of the revised bylaws was distributed tonight. The bylaws mirror the proposed stipulations in the amended Resolution.

- Cemetery Preservation – Staff will be drafting an information item in 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. 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.
- ICARE Information and Tax Abatement follow-up – 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.
- 50th Anniversary mailing – Staff delivered the final letter and mailing list to the Print Shop last week. As soon as the print run is completed, staff will be bringing the Inventory brochure and the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust brochure to the mailroom for inclusion in the mailing. The count for the mailing resulted in 1108 individual pieces of mail.
- Reston Survey – Staff will host a joint kick off meeting with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for the Reston architectural survey on Thursday, November 21, 2019 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.

- Late Night at the Virginia Room – On Friday, October 4th, staff presented on the Inventory nomination process at the Virginia Room's 'Late Night' program along with Susan Hellman's presentation on researching your historic property. The presentation was well attended and well received.
- Woodlawn (Mount Vernon District) – The Board voted to approve the National Trust's zoning application for Woodlawn at its public meeting on Oct. 29, 2019, subject to the Fairfax County Planning Commission's Oct. 17 development conditions.
- Lorton/Liberty Tour – On October 10th Commission Members Beach and Murray join staff and the Architectural Review Board on a tour of rehabilitation of areas of the former Lorton Prison site, as well as some of the new construction sites.
- 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 I know.
- Route 1/BRT – A link to FCDOT's public comment survey was distributed to the History Commission in late October as another way to comment on the project. Staff has no further update on this project at this time. FCDOT is maintaining a website for the project where you can sign up to receive emails updates. The website can be found at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/richmond-hwy-brt>
- Soapstone Connector (Hunter Mill District) – On October 11, 2019, FHWA received the Determination of Eligibility notification for the Reston Center for Associations and Educational Institutions (RCAEI) (proposed Association Drive Historic District) from the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (see attached).
- The Keeper has determined that the RCAEI meets the threshold for exceptional importance under Criteria Consideration G and is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development. The Keeper also determined that the RCAEI does NOT meet the threshold for exceptional importance under Criteria Consideration G under Criterion A for Education or under Criterion C for architecture.
- A consulting party meeting will be scheduled in the near future to discuss next steps in the Section 106 process.
- Association Drive (Hunter Mill District) – No resubmittal to date.

Committee Reports

History Conference – Commissioner Garvey-Hodge Reported:

Commissioner Garvey-Hodge thanked all who signed up to work during the conference and proceeded as follows:

- Reviewed with Commissioners and reminded them of their individual assignments.
- Reviewed the process with the Treasurer.
- Explained and lamented the process for money given to awardees, including the use of w-9 and hoped for a better way to do so in the future.
- Registration is close to 100 people.
- Joyce Wilkerson, first History Commission chairperson, almost 90 years old will be attending the conference.
- Brian Conley will be there.
- Commissioner Wilson will be the photographer.
- The door opens at 7:00 a.m. and expects to be closed by 4:00 p.m.
- Encouraged all to wear gold for the 50th Anniversary of the History Commission.

Inventory Committee – Commissioner Murray Reported:

- The Inventory Committee met October 21 at Government Center.
- Had a briefing by Dept. of Planning and Development GIS staff, Daniel White. He showed enhanced layer for Inventory of Historic Sites.
- The nomination for the Journal Building in McLean to be listed on the Inventory was turned down.
- Discussed final mailing.

Marker Committee – Commissioner Lipsey Reported:

- FMD has agreed to coordinate with the History Commission and install the History Commission markers. The total cost is \$2600 to date.
- The cost of the markers could be increased in May 2020.
- Friends of the McLean Community Center and the McLean Historical Society paid for half of the marker. History Commission paid for the other half.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lipsey, seconded by Commissioner Herrick, **that the History Commission pay for the remaining half of the cost of the marker in the amount of \$1300.**

A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously,

Ethnic and Oral History – Commissioner McCullough Reported:

- Only two showed up for the last meeting.
- Possible dates for next meeting December 9, 10, and 11.
- Annandale Fair went well. – History Commission had a good representation. Attendees were enthusiastic and asked questions

Resident Curator Program – Commissioner Beach Reported:

- An application for Hannah P. Clark/Enyedi is currently under evaluation team review.
- The Resident Curator Evaluation Team will hold a meeting to score the application, review public comment and make a determination on Tuesday, November 12 at 9 a.m. in the Park Authority Board room on the 9th floor of the Herry Building, located at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA. While these meetings are open to the public, there will be no opportunity for public comment.
- The application is available for review on the Resident Curator Program website. Comments concerning the proposal are due in writing to parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov by Friday November 8, 2019.
- Staff is working with Park Operations to install electricity, design septic, and install septic at Barrett.
- Asbestos abatement at White Gardens will begin shortly.
- Staff received on application for Lahey Lost Valley. It is currently under administrative 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: covered exposed insulation at the foundation, graded areas around foundation, improved drain spouts and sump pump drains.
- 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 Reported:

- Budget was submitted last Tuesday.
- Concerned about line item and \$1500 charge.
- May have a revised financial statement

Bylaws – Commissioner Barnes Reported:

Commissioner Barnes requested that the Bylaws committee meet either November 18 or December 16, 2019.

Advocacy – Commissioner Herrick Reported:

Will have a meeting early next year.

Audit Committee – Commissioner Sherman Reported:

- The Audit Committee met October 31, 2019, at 12 noon, at the Freeman Store.
- Review of the History Commission Minutes shows all expenses reported for 2019 had been authorized by the Commission.
- One minor discrepancy was noted between Focus account and History Commission account of February 2019, due to typographical error.
- Question arose regarding the lack of clear information regarding undefined “budget” “accrual” and “interest” adjustment in focus report and the Commission’s payment of Social Security tax for the clerk.
- There is a need to request for greater transparency regarding budget adjustments.
- Audit Committee desires to change the name of Audit Committee to Financial Review Committee.

ARB – Commissioner Murray Reported:

Consent Calendar Item

Approved an amendment to ARB 18-LFK-04 - Proposal for a grading plan and landscaping located at 1011 and 1013 Turkey Run Road, the Mackall Hall House. Tax Map 22-3 ((1) 50 and 51, located in the Langley Fork Historic Overlay District. The modification to the approved ARB application includes an adjustment to the limits of disturbance (LOD) on the property to provide a private sanitary sewer lateral easement on to the property. – Dranesville District

Action Item

Approved ARB 19-WDL-02 – Proposal for signage for the existing gas station property at 8861 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA, located in the Woodlawn Historic Overlay District. Mt. Vernon District.

Workshop Item

None

Presentation

Z-MOD Discussion "Overlay Districts: Historic Overlay Districts, "Carmen Bishop and Casey Judge, DPD

Website – Commissioner Repetti:

Commissioner Repetti noted that she had nothing to report for the night.

Nominating Committee – Presentation of Slate of Officers for 2020

Commissioner Barnes, Chair, Reported:

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Anne Barnes, Chair; Barbara Naef, and Mary Lipsey, members, respectively, presented the following slate of officers for 2020, as follows:

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

Announcements/News

Commissioner Tannenbaum announced that he is representing the History Commission, which is a consulting party in the Section 106 review process of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation with respect to 495 widening.

Commissioner McCullough announced as follows:

- She attended a bus trip with her senior ministry of First Baptist Church to Cape Cod. She noted that they saw sights at Hyannis. They had Sandwich and lobster dinner. She added that they also saw Cape Cod National Seashore, Provincetown and the Chatham Lighthouse and the Eastham windmill. They were unable to see Martha's Vineyard due to bad weather. She added that she is looking forward to revisiting there again.
- She will attend the groundbreaking of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial because her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. was a part of the suffragist march.

Commissioner Beach announced that there will be a groundbreaking for the Suffragist Memorial on November 14, 2019. He added that they anticipate about 140 people in attendance. He noted that they have already obtained the approved site plan and are working on obtaining the building permit.

Commissioner Lipsey announced that a diverse group of family genealogists, historians, members of the Commission and the County Virginia Room staff are working to produce a digital map of enslaved and African American cemeteries and communities within Fairfax County.

Commissioner Naef reminded the Commissioners to remember what they signed up to bring to the Commission's Holiday dinner on December 4, 2019

Commissioner Lyons announced as follows:

- Mt. Vernon Regional Historical Society will host Matthew R. Virta Cultural Resources Program Manager for the George Washington Memorial Parkway at 7:00p.m., November 21, 2019, at the Mount Vernon Government Center. The subject will be "The History and Significance of the George Washington Memorial Parkway."
- She attended Megan Veness' excellent presentation at the COVA/ASV Conference on her ongoing archaeology at Custis Square in Williamsburg. She attended the lab open house featuring the many artifacts found, and those of Ivor Noel Hume's earlier research.

Commissioner Herrick reported that she received a phone call from someone who wanted to donate a painting to McLean Historical Society. The painting, she said, is a section of Tysons Corner done in 1955.

Commissioner Fatzinger announced as follows:

- A member of Mt. Vernon Historical Society, Mary Thompson, finished her book, and it is in bookstore at Mt. Vernon Estate. The book is entitled, "The Only Unavoidable Subject of Regret", George Washington, Slavery, and the Enslaved Community at Mount Vernon. Ms. Thompson will be hosting a luncheon March 10, 2010, at Rosemary's Kitchen.
- He has informed his Supervisor that he does not want to be reappointed to the History Commission. He explained that he accidentally collided with a bicyclist after the October meeting, which has resulted in some hardship for him and has caused him to reevaluate night meetings.
- Some pointers from Commissioner Fatzinger, as he departs the History Commission included:
 - Be more proactive in preserving historical property. Use information in Senator Scott Surovell's presentation to help with that.
 - Better identify historic properties in each district so as not to repeat the Collingwood situation.
 - Improve the wording on markers in order to get people to read them.
 - Move on and be more active with the oral history program before losing people who will not be around anymore.
 - Consider having all committees meetings on one day of the month to minimize driving, possibly from 6 to 8 P.M. on the Commission meeting night and begin the Commission meeting at 8 p.m.
 - Each Committee should have prepared agenda for the meeting so as to be more focused.

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, the November 6, 2019, History Commission Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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



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

1/8/20

Date:

November 6, 2019

Fairfax County History Commission

Treasurer Report

FOCUS Account as of October 31, 2019

Beginning balance:	October 1, 2019	\$ 68,930.48
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Revenue:

9/30/2019	Budget Adjustment (Interest)	\$ 77.90
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Expenses:

10/11/2019	Winifred Clement-Nelson (minutes 9/4/2019)	\$ 515.00
10/11/2019	FICA & Medicare	\$ 39.40

Ending balance:	October 31, 2019	\$68,453.98
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Park Authority/History Conference Account	\$ 5,501.29
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Interest	\$ 8.66
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Registrations	\$ <u>820.00</u>
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Reimbursement: printing	\$ 14.88
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Awards/Bauville	\$ 196.25
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Facilities Rental	\$ 843.75
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Balance (10/31)	\$ 5,275.07
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Submitted by: Barbara Peters, FCHC Treasurer