## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING October 2, 2019

On October 2, 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 Glenn Fatzinger Elise Murray

Phyllis Walker Ford

Barbara Naef

Carole Herrick

Barbara Peters

Lynne Garvey Hodge

Cheryl-Ann Repetti Steve Sherman

Monulineov

Anne Stuntz

Mary Lipsey

Jordan Tannenbaum

## **Commissioners Absent:**

Michael Irwin

Excused

Greg Wilson

**Excused** 

## **County Liaisons Present:**

Denice Dressel, Fairfax County Department of Planning & Development; Aimee Wells, Stephanie Langton, Fairfax County Park Authority; Christopher Barbuschak, Fairfax City Regional Library.

#### **Guests Present**

#### Organization

**Area of Interest** 

Todi Carnes Senator Scott Surovell Friends of Historic Huntley Senator, VA District 36

Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation

## **Call to Order**

The October 2, 2019, History Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Anne Stuntz at 7:35 p.m. She announced the names of Commissioners absent from the meeting. The Chair requested that guests in the audience introduce themselves.

Commissioner Stuntz then proceeded to introduce the first presentation for the night by Senator Scott Surovell of Virginia District 36, who spoke on Historic Preservation in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The senator discussed two statutes under the Code of Virginia Title 15.2. Counties, Cities and Towns. Chapter 9, General Powers of Local Government: 15.2-944.1 Notification prior to sale or transfer of ownership of certain historic properties, and 15.2-2306 Preservation of historical sites and architectural areas.

Excerpts from Senator Surovell's presentation are shown below:

A very important tool the County has is the ordinance on historic overlay districts.

- Fairfax County Policy is to declare an area as a part of a historic overlay district only with the owner's consent. However the State of Virginia has given broad authority to the County to use the zoning ordinance to place historic overlay district status in any area of the County for preservation purposes.
- The History Commission could make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors to impose historic overlay districts in any area of the County to preserve certain property. He agreed that Fairfax County could have used this authority in the recent past to preserve some historic structures from being demolished.

After the presentation and further discussion, the Senator responded to questions from the Commissioners.

The Chair thanked Senator Surovell for the very informative presentation.

## **Approval of the Minutes September 4, 2019**

A motion was made by Commissioner Tannenbaum, seconded by Commissioner Naef, to approve the History Commission

Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2019, as presented, and to pay the Clerk.

A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Reports for October 2, 2019 – Commissioner Barbara Peters Reported: Commissioner Peters read the treasurer's report and noted that as of September 30, 2019, the Treasurer's report shows an ending balance of \$68,930.48 and Park Authority/History Conference account balance of \$5,501.29.

The full Treasurer's report for October 2, 2019, is attached to these Minutes.

## **New Business**

## **Towlston Grange:**

- Discussion was held regarding a real estate agent's requesting someone who is very knowledgeable about Towlston Grange to be present at the open house for sale of this property.
- It was further revealed that two individuals from the community who were not a
  part of the History Commission have agreed to handle this matter and the
  Commission will not be a part of the promotion of the property.
- It was suggested, and agreed that because of the historic nature of the property, information about the historic significance could be displayed at the property.

#### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Cemetery Preservation**

- Commissioner Lipsey presented and reviewed with the Commissioners, an outline for History Commission Cemetery Committee and a Friends Group.
- A discussion was held regarding the committee's involvement with projects involving county cemeteries and the geographical boundaries of the cemeteries involved.
- The Commission will vote next month on establishing the cemetery committee.

#### **Alternative to Demolition**

- The Chair thanked Commissioner Lyons for inviting Senator Surovell for the presentation on historic preservation.
- After a detailed discussion, Commissioner Tannenbaum agreed with Commissioner Garvey-Hodge that the subject of alternative to demolition be considered as part of the History Commission strategic planning process.
- After further discussion, Commissioner Lyons suggested that anything the Commission does regarding the process should be expedited.

## Collingwood

Commissioner Lyons indicated that Collingwood has been demolished.

## **Fairfax City Request re History Commission**

County staff is scheduled to meet with Chairman Bulova October 16 to bring up History Commission's concerns on the matter of appointing a Fairfax City representative to the History Commission.

## **Soapstone Connector/Association Drive**

Commissioner Tannenbaum reported that a response regarding Soapstone is expected from the Keeper of the Register by October 11.

## **Staff Reports**

# Fairfax County Park Authority – Aimee Wells: Archaeology and Collections Branch

- Archaeologists continue to study the floodplain at Riverbend Park in anticipation of trail work on the Potomac Heritage Trail.
- Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology & Cultural Resources will hold a symposium about cemetery preservation on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> at the James Lee Center from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology provided a \$1000 grant to the Archaeology and Collections Branch. It is being used to update outreach and teaching materials

 The Archaeology and Collections Branch continues to be involved in the conceptual design process for a curation facility. Two concept designs should be complete by the end of the month, and cost estimates will follow with the hope that the total cost will be included in the 2020 Bond cycle.

## Heritage Conservation Branch – Stephanie Langton: Museum Collections

- The Collections Manager hosted a researcher for the Dranesville Tavern HSR on September 4.
- The Collections Manager attended meetings about programming the Collections Facility on September 6, 17, and 24. The Collections Manager then hosted two of the subcontractors on visits to Frying Pan Farm Park, Sully Historic Site, and Colvin Run Mill on September 23.
- The Collections Manager posted a 900-hour part-time Collections Assistant job. The listing closed on September 6.
- The Collections Manager attended the Historic House Museum Consortium Symposium on September 16.

## **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 both on a desktop and 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.

#### Volunteers – HSVC

- The Historic Sites Volunteer Corp partnered with the Young Men's Service League for its 2019 Ultimate Gift project. It was held at Mount Gilead on September 28th. Projects consisted of varying landscape clean-up tasks, with a total of 121 volunteers.
- For this month's Historic Sites Volunteer Corps project, HSVC is partnering with Volunteer Fairfax for its 2019 Volunteer Festival. A landscape cleanup will be held at the Ash Grove property on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Virginia Room report: History Commission Chris Barbuschak Reported:

- The Virginia Room had an outreach table at Oak Hill Day on Saturday October 21.
- Staff is preparing to shift the entire book collection in the public stacks to make it more user friendly for researchers.
- Two new George Mason University volunteers have started scanning and indexing slide collections this month.
- Chairman Sharon Bulova's Office donated her "Bulova Record" to the Virginia Room in September. The Chairman's staff maintained a clipping archive of every time she appeared in the newspaper going back to 1989.

- The Great Falls Historical Society donated several paintings of buildings in the Great Falls area, as well as a "Thelma's Country Store" sign the last operating general store in Great Falls when it closed in 2007. Thelma and Frank Feighery operated it for over 50 years, and it was listed on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites but demolished in July 2007. The sign is now on display in the Virginia Room. Also included in the donation was what is purported to be a tollbooth sign for Old Georgetown Pike.
- Late Night in the Virginia Room is Friday October 4<sup>th</sup>. The Virginia Room will offer classes and be open for research until 11pm.

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

- Fairfax City Representation Before responding to the Board of Supervisors, staff is scheduled to meet with Chairman Bulova on October 16 to discuss the History Commission's concerns regarding the appointment of a representative from Fairfax City to the Commission.
- ICARE Information Staff has been reviewing the Tax Administration's information in the ICARE system to confirm accuracy. Kyra Davis, our intern who has been with us since this summer, completed the review and we have sent the results to the Tax Administration.
- Tax Abatement follow-up Staff continues to work with the Department of Taxation on Supervisor McKay's request to investigate the creation of a tax abatement program for historic properties in the county. We had a telephone meeting last Thursday with Tax Administration staff. Staff has identified three jurisdictions with similar programs in the state: Virginia Beach, Richmond, and Winchester, and will be reaching out to their program managers for a comparative analysis of each program.
- **50**<sup>th</sup> **Anniversary mailing** Staff met with the Inventory Committee on September 23<sup>rd</sup> to finalize preparations for the anniversary mailing. A goal was set to have the mailing to the county print shop by the end of October, in order for the property owners to receive the letter prior to the History Conference.
- Inventory Nomination (Dranesville District) Staff will be meeting with the Inventory Committee to review the McLean Journal Building nomination on October 21st.
- Late Night at the Virginia Room Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00, staff will be following Susan Hellman's presentation on researching your historic property with a presentation on the Inventory nomination process.
- Reston Survey The kick-off meeting for the project initiation has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 7 – more details to come. This will be a public meeting in Reston with the contractor, DHR staff, county staff, and all interested parties to provide community members an opportunity to learn more about the survey and the identified historic districts.
- Harrison House Site Visit There was a site visit on the evening of September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Harrison House in the Centreville Historic Overlay District for the Architectural Review Board, which the Sully District History Commission

- representatives, Cheryl Repetti and Esther McCullough, attended. Nicole Brannan represented staff. There are a number of Code violations on the property and the County is litigating to bring the property owner into compliance.
- Lorton/Liberty Tour Members of the History Commission are invited to tour
  the Liberty developments in Lorton on Thursday, October 10 before ARB meeting
  from 2:30-4pm. If you are interested in attending, please let Laura Arseneau or
  me know by Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> to ensure there is enough safety gear as you will
  be touring construction sites.
- Woodlawn (Mount Vernon District) The National Trust's application for a Special Exception will be heard at the Planning Commission's public hearing on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Soapstone Connector (Hunter Mill District) No update staff continues to wait on the response from the Keeper of the National Register as to the determination of eligibility. We expect to hear something the middle of this month possibly as early as next Friday.
- Association Drive (Hunter Mill District) No resubmittal to date.
- Route 1/BRT Nicole Brannan is attending the Section 106 Consulting Parties meeting which was held September 4<sup>th</sup> at the South County Government Center and provided the following report:
  - Other parties in attendance include the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Ft. Belvoir, VDHR, Alexandria Friends Meeting House, Gum Springs Historical Society and members of RKK the consulting firm who conducted the heritage resources surveys.
  - FCDOT began by reviewing the BRT project description, the NEPA and Section 106 processes and then detailed out the heritage resources surveys and results. They noted they are currently in the process of addressing the comments they received from the consulting parties regarding the identification efforts and results.
    - Archaeology: As the project area and limits are still being refined, FCDOT stated that eligibility for archaeological resources have not yet been determined, but a Phase I survey will be conducted, and the results will be addressed in an agreement document.
    - Above ground resources: The consultant discussed how they were addressing comments from the consulting parties after their architectural survey report in April. They noted the Fair Haven and Jefferson Manor, WWII/mid-century subdivisions, were being further evaluated under the NPS Multiple Property Designation for historic suburbs. While the evaluation is not completed, the consultants thought that the Fair Haven subdivision was relatively intact and was a good early example of a wartime FHA subdivision, where the Jefferson Manor subdivision has had more substantial alterations and does not have the same associations. RKK is also further examining Route 1 as a historic resource and its association to transportation history but noted that there was a loss of likely related resources along the highway.

- The consultant then discussed Gum Springs as a possible historic district as well. The consultant has identified potential boundaries and that within those boundaries they did not identify a large number of historic resources as many properties within the boundaries are less than 50 years old. The consulting parties then had a larger discussion about how Gum Springs may not be a traditional architectural historic district, but rather a cultural district like a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) and should be treated as such. The consultant was asked if they had been conducting interviews or oral histories and he noted one with Ron Chase. The consultant stated that they would follow up further in that vein as many consulting parties felt interviews and oral histories are necessary. FCDOT also stated that VDOT would be identifying other alternatives for the BRT in the Gum Springs area as the Gum Springs community has expressed concern about the proposal of Fordson Road access closure.
- Other resources discussed as potentially being affected by the BRT is the historic Penn Daw fire station, currently, A and A Rentals. Under the current project description, FCDOT stated that the structure will have to be demolished causing an adverse effect. There was discussion among the consulting parties to see if there was a way to adjust the limits of disturbance to avoid the structure. FCDOT/VDOT stated they were not sure that was a possibility, but more research would be done.
- The St. Louis Catholic Church was also identified as eligible to the National Register and that effects from the BRT would be mostly audible and visual. Consulting parties wanted more information about the structure located along the road frontage and was a part of the church's property. This structure is known historically as the Groveton School and was moved to its current location in the early 20th century and was used as a chapel. The consultant indicated because the structure had been moved there, it was recommended not eligible to the National Register. Consulting parties thought that the structure and its history should be evaluated through the lens of what the building meant to the community once it had been moved and was used as a chapel.
- o The consultant will continue its research and once it is completed FTA will be reaching back out to consulting parties. Website: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/richmond-hwy-brt

## **Committee Reports**

## **Inventory Committee – Commissioner Murray Reported:**

- Commissioner Murray reported that the Inventory Committee met September 23, 2019, and finalized plans for mailing to the Inventory property owners.
- She noted that the committee also discussed Journal Building Inventory Nomination.
- The next Inventory Committee meeting will be held October 21, 2019.

## Marker Committee - Commissioner Lipsey Reported:

Commissioner Lipsey announced that a decision has been made that the County's Facilities Management Department will continue to install the historical markers. In the future there will be a meeting to work out the details with the County.

Commissioner Lipsey thanked Ms. Dressel for her efforts in working out the arrangement.

## **Ethnic and Oral History – Commissioner McCullough Reported:**

- The Ethnic Committee was asked to advise Annandale on conducting oral history interviews at the Taste of Annandale Fair pop-up location being held Saturday, October 5 from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Tom Davis Drive, Annandale.
- The committee provided information and forms for them to prepare a working template of their own.
- History Commission could provide a table to display materials, such as the History Commission trifolds, that explain the activities of the Commission.
- Laura Baker from Office of Community Revitalization is the contact.
- There is a need for volunteers to set up and man the History Commissioner table. Two volunteers are needed at each time slot of two hours, starting at 9:00 a.m.
- It was announced that Commissioner Peter's husband has agreed to serve as a volunteer at the FCHC table.

## Resident Curator Program – Commissioner Beach Reported:

- Staff received one application for Hannah P. Clark/Enyedi. It has successfully advanced to evaluation team review.
- The Resident Curator Evaluation Team will hold a public information meeting on Monday, October 7, 2019, at 7 p.m. in the Media Center of the South County High School, located at 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. This meeting provides an opportunity for the applicants to present their proposals in a public forum and for the evaluation team to receive public comments.
  - Additional meetings of the evaluation team will be held on Wednesday October 2 at 9 a.m., Tuesday, November 12 at 9 a.m. and Friday, November 22 at 9 a.m. in the Park Authority Board room on the 9th floor of the Herrity 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.
- 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:**

Commissioner Murray reviewed the proposed budget request for FY2021 and the budget estimates for FY2020.

Concerning a request for archaeology grant for one intern to work with Archaeology Collections, a motion was made by Commissioner Murray, seconded by Commissioner Naef, that the History Commission set aside \$9900 for sponsorship of an intern.

A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Murray, seconded by Commissioner Naef, <u>that the History Commission approve</u> <u>the Fiscal Year 2020 Estimates, Column 4, in tabulation as presented tonight.</u>

A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Murray, seconded by Commissioner Naef, that the History Commission approve the Fiscal Year 2021 request, in Column 6, of tabulation as presented tonight.

A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

## Bylaws – Commissioner Barnes:

Commissioner Barnes had no report on Bylaws for the night.

## **Advocacy – Commissioner Herrick**:

Commissioner Herrick had no Advocacy report for the night.

## History Conference – Commissioner Garvey-Hodge Reported:

- Commissioner Garvey-Hodge distributed revised copies of the History Conference agenda.
- The conference will be held November 9, 2019, at Sherwood Community Center, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Conference Theme: 50<sup>th</sup> Years of Historic Preservation in Fairfax County and 400 Years of African American History in Virginia.
- The next conference committee meeting is scheduled for October 23, at 7:00 p.m., at the library.
- The agenda is still being drafted.
- Information will be posted to History Commission website.
   Commissioner Garvey-Hodge encouraged all to register early for the conference.

## Awards – Commissioner Garvey-Hodge Reported:

Slate of awardees for 2019 - Fairfax County History Commission Awards program:

- Lifetime Achievement Award:
  - o Three individuals
- Beth Mitchell Prize (\$500.00)
  - o One prize, shared by two individuals
- Edith Moore Sprouse Award (\$100.00)
  - o Two individuals

Concerning the awards for the 2019 History Commission Conference, a motion was made by Commissioner Garvey-Hodge, seconded by Commissioner Murray, <u>that the History</u> Commission accept the three awards for 2019, as presented.

A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

A total amount of \$600 will be transferred to the History Commission account with the Park Authority.

- Jack Hiller Memorial Photography Prize: Two categories in the prize:
  - o Photos taken prior to 2000 (\$250)
  - o Photos taken after 2000 (\$200)

The criteria and rules for submission were listed and reviewed.

Concerning the Jack Hiller Memorial Photography Prize, a motion was made by Commissioner Garvey-Hodge, seconded by Commissioner Herrick, to accept the verbiage of the Jack Hiller Prize as presented.

A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **Audit Committee – Commissioner Sherman Reported:**

The Audit Committee met at 6:30 p.m., today, October 2, 2019, at the Library. Another meeting will be held later this month to complete the audit.

## **ARB – Commissioner Murray Reported**:

Consent Calendar Item

 Approved: ARB-19-LOR-06 Proposal for modification to architecture for previously approved townhomes (Craftmark Homes) to be constructed in Phase 2 of the Laurel Hill adoptive Reuse Project - tax map 107-1((09)). Mount Vernon District.

#### Action Item

 Approved: ARB-15-LOR-01 Renewal of the previous approval for the development of park facilities adjacent to Lorton and Furnace Roads, in the Lorton Correctional Complex.

Workshop Items
None

## Website - Commissioner Repetti Reported:

Commissioner Repetti reported as follows:

- The application for the History Conference is on the website.
- The Fairfax County strategic plan is on the website.

#### **Announcements/News**

Commissioner Tannenbaum announced that the National Museum of the U.S. Army would open on June 4, 2020.

Commissioner McCullough announced as follows:

- She visited the Harrison House and noticed that it has been neglected and is dilapidated.
- She needs two volunteers to work the FCHC table, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, to represent the History Commission

Commission Garvey Hodge announced that she attended the memorial service for former Commissioner Irma Clifton, and that she was happy to see the beautiful plaque that was displayed in her memory.

Chris Barbuschak, President of the Fairfax County Historical Society, announced that on Sunday, Nov 3, 2019, the Historical Society will be showing the 1924 silent movie, *The Road to Happiness*, which was filmed in Fairfax County and produced by the Ford Motor Company. The showing will be held at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax, Virginia, at 2:00 p.m. The event is in celebration of the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of the film.

Commissioner Naef announced that she was contacted by a lady who wanted some information on the mills in Fairfax County. She asked that anyone with this information should let her know.

Commissioner Lyons announced that a FOFA symposium on the archaeology and preservation of cemeteries will be held at James Lee Center, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on October 5.

Commissioner Lipsey reminded the Commissioners about the Hands on Kits (American Revolution and Civil War) that are available for check out from the Fairfax County Public Libraries. She added that the County Civil War Driving trail is also available on the History Commission website.

Commissioner Fatzinger thanked Commissioner Sherman for assisting with the last Mt. Vernon Regional Historical Society's meeting until the featured speaker, Don Hakenson, showed up. There were 50 people in attendance. He noted that the next event is scheduled for November 21. Matthew Berthold, Historian for National Park Services, will talk about the George Washing Memorial Parkway historical significance.

Commissioner Fatzinger also announced that he recently attended his class reunion. He added that he had a canal ride on the Delaware and Lehigh Canal for over 45 minutes.

Commissioner Herrick announced that she will be attending two talks, one on Tuesday night.

Commissioner Sherman also talked about the Mt. Vernon Historical Society and the speech given by Don Hakenson.

Commissioner Repetti announced that she also visited the Harrison House and that the house is in such a terrible shape, but is stable. She noted that the house should be fixed or sold.

Commissioner Stuntz announced that Colbert King, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for *The Washington Post*, will be speaking at Historic Vienna, Inc.'s meeting on Tuesday, October 22, at 7:30, at Vienna's Town Hall. She noted that Mr. King will discuss his coming of age as an African-American during the turbulence of the segregated 1950s.

## Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, the October 2, 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

Data:

**October 2, 2019** 

## Fairfax County History Commission

Treasurer Report

FOCUS Account as of September 30, 2019

Beginning balan	ce: September 1, 2019	\$ 72,899.07
Revenue:		
9/1/2019	Budget Adjustment (Interest)	\$ , 46.41
Expenses:		
9/3/2019	Kovach Shuman / Mantua publication	\$ 500.00
9/13/2019	Winifred Clement-Nelson (minutes 8/1/2019)	\$ 515.00
9/30/2019	Park Authority - FCHC History Conference Acct. transfer	\$ 3,000.00
Ending balance:	<b>September 30, 2019</b>	\$68,930.48
	History Conference Account (9/1): Interest Transfer Reimbursement: printing	\$ 2,494.41 \$ 25.92 \$ 3,000.00 \$ 19.04
	<b>Balance</b> (9/30)	\$ 5,501.29

**Submitted by: Barbara Peters, FCHC Treasurer**