

3. Approval of Minutes

The Committee accepted the draft minutes as final with no further changes.

4. Staff Reports

Denice Dressel provided a detailed summary of CNC progress to date, obtaining or creating the following documents useful to our mission:

- Letter to the Towns of Vienna, Clifton, and Herndon, as well as 13 relevant local historical groups to request their assistance in research and data collection
- Draft letter to the Chair of the ARB for their support and involvement in formulating guidelines for the renaming process
- Draft template to identify and record Confederately-named resources.
- Draft list of approximately 1745 “well-known or locally significant” Confederate names as well as general Confederate terms, such as “Confederate,” and “rebel”
- Park Authority Final list of 15 Confederately-named or Confederately-associated Park Authority owned properties
- List of approximately 100 Civil War related historical markers, monuments, and plaques in the County
- List of County-owned or leased buildings, 236 and 200, respectively
- List of 17,227 County street names, by Magisterial District
- Lists of 7883 subdivisions, 1418 Civic Associations, 253 shopping centers, 164 golf courses and non-FCPA parks, and 559 general place names in the County

She also reported on the following actions and meetings:

- Staff, along with Barbara Naef and Greg Wilson, met with Matt Knox and Gwenn Minton from Supervisor’s Alcorn’s office, to discuss Matt’s first assignment of standardizing the naming convention used in the Confederate Names tables, and eliminating the duplicate names.
- Staff has begun to compile policy statements on the treatment of Confederate memorials, including guidance from the Department of Historic Resources, and the National Trust.
- Staff has begun to gather information on the identification of the responsible agencies as well as the processes for renaming, removing/relocating or contextualizing the streets, monuments, and/or places, if the Board so chooses, which includes the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Park Authority Board.
- Finally, a public hearing on potential removal, relocation, contextualization, or covering of the Marr Monument, two howitzer cannons, and DHR marker located on the courthouse grounds, will be held on September 15 at 4:30 pm. Staff will be writing the advertisement for that public hearing.

Liz Crowell reported that the Park Authority compiled a listing of all assets related to the Civil War following 2017 incidents in Charlottesville. It is an Excel spreadsheet which was updated in 2019. She is currently participating in discussions on the process of renaming Park Authority resources.

5. Committee Member Progress Reports

Greg Wilson reported that phase 1, the creation of the list of over 1700 Confederate-associated names, is wrapping up and phase 2, the comparison of those names to County resources is beginning. Committee Members agreed that the list was an impressive achievement. Anne Stuntz asked if the task of comparison was doable. Matt Knox shared that he estimates his initial comparison will take one week. CNC members agreed to use that initial comparison to further research in their districts. The Chair noted that she and Denice had discussed the schedule for compilation of the CNCs report to the Board of Supervisors and had determined to aim for wrapping up work for the October 7th History Commission meeting.

Tammy Mannarino reported that she drafted the template for Confederately-named resources which others had refined to the version on the agenda. She created two examples as a test of the template and as example to provide to partners. In terms of research, she reviewed the Mount Vernon District portion of the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites. She indicated that there were no Confederate-named sites, there were however sites associated with individuals and families with Confederate sympathies similar to the example of Frying Pan Park discussed in the previous meeting. Committee members and Supervisor Palchik confirmed that our scope for this project is limited to resources bearing Confederate Names.

Mary Lipsey reported on her work identifying more than 100 markers, signs and plaques. She is working to consolidate that information working toward the CNC report for the Board of Supervisors.

Phyllis Walker Ford reported that she and History Commission member Steve Sherman have started work on street names in the Lee District. This is a major project and they will reach out to other members of the community to accomplish it.

Carole Herrick reported that she has made considerable progress in documenting street names. She has been categorizing these streets according to the likelihood that they are named for Confederate individuals (e.g. Strong, Probable, Questionable). She has concerns that indicating a Confederate connection may be detrimental to families for whom the streets are named.

Providence – CNC members noted that Mike Irwin is the only Commissioner from the Providence District and may need assistance in researching. Mary Lipsey and Cheryl Repetti offered assistance.

6. Current Business: Research Data Collection Template Discussion

The Chair led the discussion of the current draft template indicating that it had been through review with various Committee members and is intended as a tool for standardization. She acknowledged that there may be some fields that will not be applicable for every resource, but there is value to using the same method as it will ease integration into a single report.

Tammy Mannarino shared that she had discussed with Denice the idea that the report would have different sections to account for the levels of uncertainty of whether a resource was actually named for a Confederate individual.

Mary Lipsey shared her experiences in using a template of her own creation to document markers. She reported that she has been summarizing the text of the markers for each example because the exact wording is easily accessible on-line. She also indicated that sources would be difficult to document for each marker because they are considerable. Jack Hiller kept a file for each County marker that had many references. CNC members agreed that pointing to already existing references would be sufficient.

Committee members agreed to make the draft final and share it with partner organizations. At this point, several members received simultaneous audible weather alerts and had to suddenly excuse themselves from the meeting, others may have dropped from a loss of connectivity. Anne Stuntz and Denice Dressel noted that we had lost a quorum and the meeting could not continue.

7. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the July 22, 2020, Confederate Names Committee of the History Commission Meeting at 3:45pm.