

**Electronic meeting
Confederate Names Committee of the
Fairfax County History Commission
September 30, 2020- DRAFT**

The Confederate Names Committee of the Fairfax County History Commission conducted a wholly electronic meeting on September 30, 2020.

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Barbara Naef, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Before proceeding, she read the required emergency procedure script, conducted a roll call confirming the audibility of members' voices, and confirmed the need for an electronic meeting.

Committee Members Present:

Barbara Naef, Chair
Anne Stuntz
Liz Crowell
Denice Dressel
Chris Barbuschak
Greg Wilson
Mary Lipsey
Carole Herrick
Phyllis Walker Ford
Tammy Mannarino

Location:

Reston
Vienna
Staff, PA-ACB
Staff, DPD-HR
Staff, Virginia Room
Great Falls
Springfield
McLean
Clifton
Mount Vernon

Committee Members Absent: Cheryl –Ann Repetti

Commission Members in Attendance:

2. Opening Statements

The Chair began by offering recognition due to the two dozen individuals, most well - known to us as dedicated local historians who prepared statements for the Marr monument public hearing. She also extended appreciation for Mary Lipsey's comments at the hearing that there are three stories to the Civil War story in this Fairfax County: that of the Union, the Confederacy, and African Americans.

The chair also shared her experience in providing tours at the Smithsonian Museum of American History. As a group of Koreans was visiting the museum, there was great interest and excitement around an exhibit that included portraits of Lincoln and Lee. When asked the focus of their animated discussion, a translator replied how novel it seemed to show both sides of the war, not just the victor. The Chair, explained the total is our history; this is what we do. Two sides in the Civil War – this a best effort to explain the conflicts.

3. Approval of Minutes

The Committee accepted the September 9th CNC meeting draft minutes as final with no further changes.

4. Discussion and Approval

The Chair introduced three separate draft CNC recommendations to be included with the final Confederate Names report, the first two dealing with the product that will be provided to the Board of Supervisors and a third focused on a future initiative of the History Commission.

- a. Recommendation that research materials for the Confederate Names project be placed in the Virginia Room. There was consensus from the committee that this would be beneficial for the community to be able to access the work product. The committee also discussed that there should be a preamble to the materials to explain the limited and somewhat informal nature of the research. They agreed that specific language could be determined as the report is finalized.
- b. Recommendations for guidelines and a robust public process regarding the disposition of Confederate linked assets. The committee is in favor of emphasizing the importance of public input to the process and the inclusion of a “period of advisement and consideration” after that public input. The committee felt that there would be a benefit to deliberation by the Board of Supervisors before a decision is made.
- c. Within the Next Step portion of the report, the announcement of a major initiative by the History Commission to develop a research inventory identifying and providing access to materials important to the histories of African American communities throughout Fairfax County. The members of the committee were very supportive of this idea that would commence in 2021.

5. Committee Member Progress Reports

Denice Dressel confirmed the resources that would be excluded from the Committee Report: cities, federal property (Fort Belvoir will be included for information), schools, churches and cemeteries. Some types of private property may be included (e.g. Shopping Centers). She indicated that only resources confirmed to be named for Confederates will be included in the report. Inconclusive resources will be listed in the appendices. The committee members agreed that the false matches indicated in red on the filtered lists will be dropped and not included in the report.

Denice raised the question of whether Family names should be listed in a single section or divided up by Magisterial District. There were reasonable arguments for each

method; however, committee members agreed that putting the family names into a single list would take more time. Given that the Supervisors are likely to be examining their own lists more directly, everyone reached the conclusion to have separate District lists.

Chris Barbuschak indicated that he has completed work on the Springfield, Mason and Lee Districts. Hunter Mill is mostly complete and Braddock may also be complete at this point. He is still collaborating on the Providence District.

Tammy Mannarino reported that she is working on the last half of the street names in the Mount Vernon District. There are a few mysteries, but they should be wrapped up shortly.

It was reported that Cheryl Repetti is still working on the Sully District list and needs the link to the ShareFile.

Carole Herrick has turned in 124 templates and is working with Denice to determine which ones are conclusively linked to Confederate names.

Mary Lipsey reported that she is working on Supervisor Palchik's motion that resulted from the public hearing on the Marr monument. It will result in one or more new markers to be located at the Courthouse. There are many details to resolve on this project: location, cost and topic for the markers. Some preliminary topics may be: slavery, the vote for secession, segregated education, the battle at the Court House, and reconstruction.

6. Next Meeting

Committee members agreed to hold their next meeting on October 14th at 2p.m.

7. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the September 30th, 2020, Confederate Names Committee of the History Commission Meeting at 4:12 p.m.