

**Electronic meeting
Confederate Names Committee of the
Fairfax County History Commission
July 10, 2020 - DRAFT**

The Confederate Names Committee of the Fairfax County History Commission conducted a wholly electronic meeting on July 10, 2020.

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Barbara Naef, called the meeting to order at 2:05 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
Phyllis Walker Ford
Greg Wilson
Mary Lipsey
Carole Herrick
Tammy Mannarino

Location:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Mike Irwin

Excused

Commission Members in Attendance:

Gretchen Bulova
Lynne Garvey-Hodge

2. Opening Statement

The Chair began by citing the History Commission's unusual and potentially controversial circumstances with a great stage. She noted that the committee is fortunate to have the assistance of staff, Denice Dressel. The chair shared the approach to and results of the meeting with Supervisors Alcorn and Palchik and Deputy County Executive Rachel Flynn to further define the Committee's assignment. She noted that the members of the Committee are acting as clerks, researching and gathering information in this process, and therefore neutral parties charged with informing, not advocating.

3. Staff Reports

Prior to calling on Denice Dressel and Elizabeth Crowell for staff reports, the Chair clarified that they are staff members assigned to the Committee, as well as full members of the Committee.

Denice Dressel informed the Committee that a separate webpage has been created for this group on the History Commission's website. She also indicated that all inquiries from the press should be referred to Brian Worthy in the County Public Affairs office at 703-324-4774 or brian.worthy@fairfaxcounty.gov. She reminded the committee members of the History Commission's adopted policy to encourage members of the public to contact their respective Supervisors for public comment on the topic, and that all work of the committee is subject to Freedom of Information Act requirements. She also noted that Rachel Flynn is looking into the timeline for the report and that the last meeting for the Board of Supervisors in 2020 is December 1. Ms. Dressel referred to a number of assets and resources that will be helpful to this committee as it moves forward including:

- Street Name Report by Magisterial District (with some crossing boundaries).
- Points of contact within VDOT and the County Attorney's Office
- An intern in Supervisor Alcorn's office (~20 hrs per week through at least July 31)
- A list of relevant historical societies derived from Fairfax's 275th anniversary. Greg Wilson added that this list has been updated as part of the work on the History Commission's Strategic Plan survey.

Liz Crowell reported that in 2017 the Park Authority compiled a listing of all assets related to the Civil War. It is an Excel spreadsheet and has been recently updated. She noted that there is ambiguity in some cases with the Lee name whether it refers specifically to Robert E. Lee or the family.

4. Committee Member Report

Mary Lipsey reported on the work she has undertaken to identify markers related to the Civil War. It was noted that markers, while not specifically included in the BOS motion, were confirmed by Supervisors Alcorn and Palchik to be included in the scope. They are interested in both Confederate and Union markers. Mary suggested that there be a review of the Civil War Driving Trail that was created and supported by the HC during the sesquicentennial on the HC website. She has identified the following types of markers and monuments:

- History Commission
- Commonwealth of Virginia
- Civil War Trail
- Fairfax County Park Authority
- NoVa Parks (Northern Virginia Regional Parks)
- Friends of WO&D Trail, Hunter Mill Defense League
- John Marr and Battle of Ox Hill (monuments)

- Plaques (e.g. Marr Camp at Courthouse, Mosby's Raid on Elden St.)
- Commemorations of the Sesquicentennial

Carole Herrick asked whether the instruction to include both Confederate and Union assets applied to the entire inventory or just to markers and monuments. Anne Stuntz clarified that the scope of all Civil War only applied to monuments and markers.

5. Current Business: Confederate Names Inventory--Scope and Methodology

The Chair led the Committee through the Questions Guide for the 7/7/2020 Meeting with Supervisors Alcorn & Palchik regarding 6/23/2020 Board Matter concerning the History Commission's assignment to prepare a report listing a full inventory of Confederate street names, monuments and public places in Fairfax County and on Fairfax County owned property. After review of the responses in the Questions Guide, some committee members expressed concern at the expanded scope: including areas of private property, as well as including historical markers for the Civil War in general and for both Confederate and Union names. The committee members asked if the Questions Guide outlining the expanded scope would be provided to all the Supervisors. Barbara Naef and Anne Stuntz clarified that the sponsoring Supervisors have given that as the scope for the inventory because they want to be able see the balance of coverage between Confederate and Union, as well as be able to answer questions from the public. They, and Denice Dressel, further reiterated the role of the Committee is one of information gathering. Ms. Dressel said she would work with Rachel Flynn for guidance on informing the rest of the Board.

During the review of Item 6 on the Questions Guide, the Chair recommended that the Committee draft a letter to send to the Towns included in the scope of the Inventory to enlist their assistance. This letter could also be used to reach out to other partners for research including the Civil War Roundtable. The Chair said she would draft this letter.

During the review of the remainder of the Questions Guide, the Committee decided to work through liaisons for research questions in the following areas:

- Mary Lipsey will serve as liaison to Chris Barbuschak at the Virginia Room.
- Greg Wilson will serve as liaison to Heather Bollinger at Historic Records. Additionally, Greg Wilson volunteered to assist in providing a list of generally well-known Confederate individuals.
- Denice Dressel will guide the intern working with the Committee.
- Mike Irwin will be asked to reach out to Providence District Supervisor Palchik when needed.

6. Meeting Schedule

The Committee agreed to meet bi-weekly over Web-Ex during this project as long as in-person meetings are not feasible. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 22nd at 2p.m.

7. Adjournment

The July 10, 2020, Confederate Names Committee of the History Commission Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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