

DRAFT

History Commission Recommendations

*(included in Confederate Names Report/ Recommendations for Consideration by BOS)*

The History Commission proposes these recommendations as a means of ensuring that a critical element of decision-making regarding the disposition of Confederate linked assets, a robust public process, will be initiated and pursued by the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioners sought out, studied and assessed guidelines proposed and followed by multiple national and regional public history organizations, as well as local governments for addressing the divisive issue of Confederate names in public places. Consistent throughout all guidelines is the requirement to engage the public in an open dialogue prior to definitive action by the governing authority.

The Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt such a guideline. Pursuant to such a process, presentations during public hearings and community gatherings would be accepted for a period of advisement and consideration.

An example of such a procedure is found in the national Advisory Council Historic Preservation statement:

*Broad civic involvement and public engagement should be pursued. Parties on all sides, especially those with historic ties to the issue, should be given the opportunity to participate in discussions, provide information, express concerns, and propose alternatives for consideration. Such input should be considered as objectively as possible by decision makers*

The Atlanta History Center guidelines require a public process that includes productive inclusive community conversations.

Finally, parameters for the review process being undertaken by Fairfax City include these stipulations:

- > *All review activities (meetings, meeting minutes, research documents, correspondence, etc.) will be open and transparent.*
- > *Citizen engagement and participation will be respectful, collaborative, and inclusive.*
- > *No outcomes will be predetermined.*