

Fairfax County 250th Commission
July 24, 1pm
Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Conference
Rooms 9/10

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Christopher Barbuschak	Virginia Room, Fairfax County Library	Absent
Nancy Rosenbaum	Mount Vernon District	Absent
Joyce Gray Bellamy	Providence District	Present
Elliot B. Bell-Krasner, Vice Chair	Human Rights Commission	Present
Julie Almay	GW Mount Vernon	Present
Gretchen Bulova	History Commission	Present
Brent Feito	The Army Historical Foundation	Present
The Honorable Michael R. Frey	Sully District	Absent
Tammy Mannarino	History Commission	Present
Paul Kohlenberger	Springfield District	Present
Patrick Lennon	Visit Fairfax	Absent
Elizabeth Maurer	National Museum of the US Army	Virtual
Subhi A. Mehdi	Dranesville District	Virtual
Suzanne Moffit	Hunter Mill District	Present
Beverly A. Schlotterbeck	Mason District	Present
Scott Stroh, Chair	Gunston Hall	Virtual
Garrett McGuire	At-Large	Present
Mary Lipsey	Pending, Braddock District	Present
VACANT	Franconia District	Vacant
VACANT	George Mason U.	Vacant

STAFF and Guests:

Denice Dressel	HRB-DPD	Present
Daniel White	HRB-DPD	Present
Megan Riley	HRB-DPD	Present
Laura Grape	RMD-FCPA	Absent
Paola Schiappacasse, Alternate	RMD-FCPA	Present
Ashley Morris	Celebrate Fairfax	Present
Trinity Yansick, Alternate	Celebrate Fairfax	Absent
Megan Leining	City of Fairfax	Present
Camela Speer	Mount Vernon District	Absent

Meeting commenced without quorum at 1:10

Quorum was reached at 1:15 with the arrival of several members.

Welcome

Admin Items

1. **Motion to approve May 2024 Meeting Minutes** – Mr. McGuire moved approval; Mr. Kohlenberger seconded; approved unanimously

2. **VFIOA Changes – Adoption of new policies:**
 - Ms. Dressel described the proposed changes to All Virtual Meetings Policy as well as the Remote Participation Policy as a result of changes to VFIOA. A summary of the changes for each policy described by Ms. Dressel is contained below:
 - **All Virtual Meetings Changes:**
 - Increases the limit of all-virtual meetings from 25% to 50% of the annual number of meetings, or from 2 meetings to 3 all virtual meetings per year. For committees which meet once per month, 3 meetings to 6 meetings per year.
 - Still cannot meet virtually 2 times in a row.
 - Still must be publicly noticed at least 3 days in advance
 - Remote participants may vote on matters before the commission
 - For the purposes of quorum, audio-visual connection must be maintained.
 - **Remote Participation Policy Changes:**
 - Defines “person with a disability” and “caregiver”
 - Members of public bodies who are disabled or a “caregiver” to count towards the physical quorum if they are participating remotely.
 - Still a quorum of members must be physically assembled
 - A member participating remotely due to a physical disability or as a caregiver will count toward quorum
 - Still members must notify the CHAIR (and staff) that they are unable to attend in person and must provide one of the reasons outlined. If it is due to a personal matter, remote participation is limited to 25% of the meeting attendance annually.
 - Still - When the meeting begins, the Commission should vote to determine that the Chair’s decision to allow/deny remote participation conforms to the policy AND that the member can be heard by everyone in the room.
 - As of July 1, 2024, both policies must be adopted annually to engage in either meeting concept

Motion to approve changes to both All Virtual Meetings and Remote Participation Policies was made by Mr. McGuire; seconded by Vice-Chair Bell-Krasner; approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

- **Finance** – Ms. Bulova reported that MOU is signed with Visit Fairfax as financial agent. It is now time to prepare the budget request for 2026. This is due to staff on 9/20/24. She is asking each committee to prepare a budget request to submit to her no later than September 1, 2024. She will compile the requests and work with the Chair and staff to submit the budget request. Ms. Bulova reminded everyone that this will be the last substantial budget request for the commemoration. The Chair indicated that they should be operating under the assumption that they will not be able to raise outside funding. Ms. Dressel explained that once we know if fundraising is needed, there are several avenues we can pursue. A multi-year projected budget is needed to determine need.
- **Inclusion** – Vice-Chair Bell-Krasner indicated that the committee will be submitting a budget, and that they will be meeting in the next couple of weeks.
- **Outreach** – The Committee is without a Chair with the resignation of Ms. Simmons. Other members of the committee indicated that they had not met. The commission members discussed whether the Outreach committee should be collapsed into the Marketing Committee. They also discussed the communications issues of not having a central email, and a way to push out information.

Purpose of the Outreach Committee:

- Address the problem of overlapping communications from the different committees reaching out to the same agencies.
- Help manage the influx of requests.
- Make certain that the commission is speaking with one voice.
- Can use the county newsletter system for output, but how does input happen?
- Need marketing tools for outreach to happen.

Discussion concluded with everyone agreeing to send the issue to Committee Chairs to discuss.

- **Activity** – Ms. Moffit reported that the Committee met last Wednesday, and that their next meeting will be all virtual. Committee members met with Pohick Church to talk about their planned activities – the reading of the Declaration of Independence. They would like to expand that activity. They are aware of the Army Historical Foundation’s planned upcoming tours. Committee members are working with the DAR on naturalization ceremonies at the Government Center for 2025-2026. They are also looking into StoryCorps with equipment that can be borrowed from the library, in coordination with the Signature Experience Committee.

Ms. Kohlenberger reported on the Historic Sites Passport activity that he is working on with Dr. Crowell from the Park Authority. He reported that it was time for them to start asking for participation and collaboration from identified sites. They will be working with a graphic artist to produce a map of partners partner sites, with a Pdf version downloadable from a website. The map will have a QR code on trifold, with a short blurb about each site. They are planning for these to be manned sites - FCPA, and private sites. There could be commemorative “poker chips” along with

stamped passport to drive visitation. Ms. Almay stated that Mt. Vernon is working on a National Passport, and that the state is also thinking about this. It would be good synergy with the other efforts.

Ms. Maurer discussed a similar Scavenger Hunt with FCPS and FCPA, where an email is sent to every child in FCPS with a link to the activity. She also emphasized that cross communication issues must be addressed.

Ms. Bellamy wanted to be sure to include sites of diversity – Mr. Kohlenberger agreed and said that they are focusing on manned sites, but could also pop up events, and historical societies.

Other Activities: 1776 movie – need licensing; Signing of the Fairfax Resolves

- **Marketing** – Mr. Lennon was absent, no report provided
- **Signature Event** – Ms. Morris spoke about the theme “Past, Present, and Future” for the signature traveling event. There is to be a listening session on August 8 at 1:00pm at Visit Fairfax Office. Tying into the VA theme “A more perfect union.” This is to be an “All hands meeting.” Commission members should reach out to their Supervisors for location ideas for the on the Signature Event mobile tour. They are also asking for volunteers with special skill sets to think about how they can help. This will need lot of volunteers for it to work.
- **Youth and Family Engagement** – Ms. Maurer reported that the committee has not met. They are waiting for more information about the programmatic intentions. Will resume meeting once they have a better understanding. Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts were mentioned and a possible Girl Scouting Badge idea to explore.

Old Business

Fiscal Agent and Budget – Ms. Bulova restated that the MOU in place with Visit Fairfax is now in place.

New Business

Semi-Annual Report – Mr. Stroh reported that the first semi-annual report has been completed and will be revised to incorporate minor editorial correction upon his return from vacation. It will be distributed to the Board and to the Commission.

The Commission will submit a second report ahead of the proposed presentation in October. Ms. Dressel asked if a date had been selected to report to the Clerk. Mr. Stroh indicated that a date had not yet been selected.

FY 2026 County Budget Submission Request Deadlines – Ms. Bulova reiterated the deadlines for Committees to submit a budget request to Ms. Bulova by September 1, 2024. The budget submission is due to the County by September 20, 2024.

Elections – Ms. Dressel read from the bylaws the article concerning elections:

“The Commission shall be served by three officers: a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and a Secretary. The Chairperson, Vice Chair, and Secretary shall be elected in accordance with the voting provisions of Article V by the Commission members biannually and such election shall be scheduled at the September meeting of the Commission. At the meeting prior to the election meeting, a slate of candidates shall be nominated during a meeting held pursuant to Article V. After nomination, each candidate shall be polled on his or her willingness and ability to serve as Chairperson, Vice Chair, and Secretary of the Commission. At the election meeting, the Chairperson, Vice Chair, and Secretary shall be elected from among the willing nominees in accordance with the voting provisions of Article V.”

Slate of candidates nominated and confirmed:

Scott Stroh, Chair – nominated by Mr. Feito
Elliot Bell-Krasner, Vice-chair, nominated by Ms. Moffit, seconded by Ms. Bulova
Elizabeth Maurer, Secretary, nominated by Vice-Chair Bell-Krasner, seconded by Ms. Bellamy

Statement Condemning Political Violence – Vice-Chair Bell-Krasner raised for discussion the commission issuing a statement condemning political violence. Ms. Dressel indicated that she had sought guidance from the County Attorney’s Office who advised that such a statement would be outside the charge and purpose of the commission and is not within the Commission’s authority. Discussion ensued. Upon general agreement from the commission, Vice-Chair Bell-Krasner withdrew his request. No formal statement was made.

Review of VA250 Activities – Chair Stroh outlined a new grant program from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources just announce, to help museums and historic sites prepare for the 250th visitors and events. There is substantial funding for brick and mortar projects, construction and fabrication of exhibits, with a 1/3 match. Check the website for more details on how to apply.

From the State Commission – the Advisory Body committees are up and running. Minutes from the meeting are posted online on the state commission’s website.

A Day of Service is being planned for April 18, 2025, to commemorate “One if by land, 2 if by sea.” The commission may want to consider organizing a day of service to coordinate with the national effort.

Open Forum / Q&A –

Ms. Schlotterbeck requested that the Chair’s Committee be put on the agenda to provide a report for future meetings. Chair Stroh agreed and noted inclusion.

Introductions – Ms. Dressel introduced Mary Lipsey, replacing Nancy Simmons from the Braddock District. Ms. Lipsey was a member of the 250th Workgroup and a long-time History Commission member. Ms. Dressel also announced that she would no longer be directly serving the commission and that Daniel White, who works in the Heritage Resources Branch and is the ARB Administrator, would be taking her place. Ms. Dressel emphasized that she will still be involved with the commission, just not as closely, in the future.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:32 pm

Upcoming Meetings – Ms. Dressel reminded everyone that future commission meetings will be held at the Government Center and not at the library for the coming year.