

**Fairfax County 250<sup>th</sup> Commission**  
**March 21, 2024 - 1pm**  
**City of Fairfax Regional Library**

**Approved Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance**

Laura Grape, sent alternate Cheryl Repetti	Resource Management, FCPA	Absent, alternate present
Beverly Schlotterbeck	Mason District	Present, virtual attendance
Brent Feito	The Army Historical Foundation	Present
Chris Barbuschak	Virginia Room, FCPL	Absent
Elizabeth Maurer, sent alternate Jennifer Dubina	National Museum of the US Army	Absent, alternate present
Elliot Bell-Krasner	Human Rights Commission	Present
Garrett McGuire	At-large, Chairman Appointee	Absent
Gretchen Bulova	History Commission	Absent
Joyce Bellamy	Providence District	Present
Nancy Rosenbaum	Mount Vernon District	Present, Virtual Attendance
Nancy Simmons	Braddock District	Absent
Patrick Lennon	Visit Fairfax	Absent
Paul Kohlenberger	Springfield District	Present, arrived 1:17
Scott Stroh	Gunston Hall	Absent
Subhi Mehdi	Dranesville District	Present
Suzanne Moffitt	Hunter Mill District	Present, arrived 1:37
Michael R. Frey	Sully District	Present
Latriece R. Prince-Wheeler	Franconia District	Absent
Tammy Mannarino	History Commission	Present
Julie Almacy	GW Mount Vernon	Present
Ashley Morris	CEO Celebrate Fairfax	Present
Megan Leining	City of Fairfax	Present

**Staff Present:** Denice Dressel, Dept. of Planning and Development, Heritage Resources

**Welcome and Introductions**

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, Elliot Bell-Krasner called the meeting to order at 1:10 start. Mr. Bell-Krasner confirmed that the commission members participating remotely could be heard by the room and could hear the room. Mr. Bell-Krasner introduced Julie Almacy as the new GW Mount Vernon representative and Ms. Almacy explained that she had previously served on the 250<sup>th</sup> Workgroup prior to the Commission being formed.

### **Approval of January 2024 Minutes**

Mr. Bell-Krasner noted that the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting and asked for comments or corrections. Mr. Kohlenberger moved that the minutes be approved, Ms. Medhi seconded the motion, and it passed by voice vote without dissension.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Finance

Ms. Rosenbaum reported on the financial agent for fundraising/donations and difficulties and requested that each committee report back with a budget to establish if the Commission needs to seek outside sponsorship, and reminding the Commission that the Community Foundation charges by the amount of money that is raised, and as these are public funds, there must be a level of transparency and accountability. Ms. Medhi expressed concern with overlapping activities of each committee and the need for this to be resolved with a master list of activities. Ms. Rosenbaum indicated the need to create a projected budget for the Commission to prioritize activities based on need and cost.

A discussion ensued around potential expenses, with Marketing, Signature Event, and Activities identified as the anticipated largest expenses. The issue of creating a timeline was raised and the need to know when implementation will occur. Ms. Morris stated that with the information sessions being planned for the end of April, there is a need for marketing money. Mr. Feito stated that the Signature Event Committee submitted a budget for the traveling exhibit and suggested that the next steps were for a line item budget to be created and the line items to be prioritized. He suggested this should occur in the next meeting or meeting after.

Mr. Bell-Krasner charged each committee to come up with a basic line item budget that can be shared and compared for redundancies and look for those items that can be combined. Mr. Bell-Krasner will request Ms. Bulova for a standardized format for committee budgets.

#### Inclusion

Mr. Bell-Krasner and Ms. Bellamy reported that the committee met the previous week. Marrion Dobbins, a local ethnographer and GMU PhD candidate, joined the committee. They discussed who they will be interviewing for the planned oral histories. The Inclusion and Activities committees are going to meet with Mr. Barbuschak at VA Room to discuss the oral history program. Ms. Moffitt suggested including the Signature Event committee as well. Ms. Mannarino suggested connecting the Fairfax program with state and federal programs. They also discussed school programs and outreach.

#### Outreach

Ms. Simmons was absent. No report was given.

### Activity

Ms. Moffitt reported that the committee met in February and that their next meeting would be in April. Working on online form. Adding to their list for Town Hall.

### Marketing

In Mr. Lennon's absence, Mr. Bell-Krasner reported for the Marketing Committee. They see three groups that need to be reached: those in need of advertising, those in need of assistance, and those who can support events that the commission is planning. They are working on an online form for submitting events to the website.

### Signature Event

Ms. Morris reported that the committee is meeting with stakeholders to inform them of this upcoming national event and to start securing their event vendors/contractors (e.g. fireworks, tents, etc.) since there will be more competition with other jurisdictions and especially with the nation's capital. They recently briefed Centreville Historical Society and are working to finalize the community information sessions. Ms. Bellamy asked about the development of materials to share with the community. Mr. Bell-Krasner indicated that there is a one-pager being developed to share with the Supervisors' officer.

Mr. Bell-Krasner stated that the Commission will be giving a full report to the Board in the fall.

### Youth and Family Engagement

In Ms. Maurer's absence, Jennifer Dubina reported that the committee is looking to have a meeting in April and to identify new members.

### Chairs Committee

Mr. Bell-Krasner stated that the Committee Chairs met three weeks ago to plan for the Town Hall information sessions at Government Center, Conference Room 9/10 on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00- 6:00pm, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-12:00, and on April 17<sup>th</sup> over Zoom from 7:00-9:00pm. There is a uniform PowerPoint presentation being created as well as marketing materials to be given out. They will be listening to learn from stakeholders what they are planning. Mr. Bell-Krasner reminded the members that there is a shared google sheet with stakeholders list that all committees can access. They will be targeting the Stakeholders list, but the information sessions will be open to the public. He requested that everyone review the list to make sure it is as complete as possible.

A question was raised about crossover and outreach with adjacent counties such as Prince William and Loudoun. Mr. Bell-Krasner indicated that Mr. Stroh and Ms. Bulova will be connected on the interjurisdictional outreach. Ms. Leining indicated that collaboration

is really important, and that the public doesn't see the boundaries. Mr. Bell-Krasner suggested that other jurisdictions could be invited to the information sessions. Ms. Medhi suggested that the state could be a resource for coordination. Mr. Feito questions what is meant by collaboration.

### **Old Business**

#### Fiscal Agent and Budget – MOU update

Ms. Dressel reported that there had been recent communications with Visit Fairfax and the Office of the County Attorney, which is a positive development.

#### FY2024 Commission Report

The Commission's semi-annual report is due at the end of the month (March) as an information item to the BOS, prior to the April Budget discussion.

#### Celebrate Fairfax Partnership - TBD

### **New Business**

Ms. Mannarino reported that she had attended the state 250<sup>th</sup> conference and learned that VA 250<sup>th</sup> is offering to create logos for localities.

Ms. Mannarino also reported that she and Ms. Bulova are working with the Fairfax County History Commission to have the Fairfax Resolves reprinted.

### **Open Forum / Q&A**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The next meeting of the Commission will take place on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the George Washington Presidential Library, 3600 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon, VA.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 2:15 with no dissension.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Denice Dressel, Dept. of Planning and Development, Heritage Resources

### **Attachments:**

- Attachment 1: January 17, 2024, Activity Committee Meeting Minutes
- Attachment 2: February 21, 2024, Activity Committee Meeting Minutes
- Attachment 3: February 23, 2024, Chairs Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachment 1

Fairfax County 250<sup>th</sup> Commission  
Activity Committee Meeting  
January 17, 2024, 1:00 pm  
City of Fairfax Regional Library  
Meeting Room B  
NOTES on AGENDA ITEMS

**Attending:**

Suzanne Moffitt

Bev Schlotterbeck – VIRTUAL

Paul Kohlenberger

Janice Dixon – Note Taker

Forrest Crain

Elizabeth Crowell – VIRTUAL

Brent Feito

NEW: Tammy Mannarino – VIRTUAL (Fairfax County History Commission)

NEW: Elizabeth (Liz) Maurer – (Fairfax County 250<sup>th</sup> Commission, Youth & Family Engagement Committee)

Meeting began at 1:10 PM. Motion to approve October 4, 2023, Meeting Minutes made by Janice Dixon, second by Forrest Crain. Motion approved.

Committee Chair Suzanne Moffitt welcomed all; in attendance was Elizabeth Maurer, from US Army Museum (Fairfax County 250<sup>th</sup> Commission, Youth & Family Committee) and Tammy Mannarino, from the Fairfax County History Commission. A Motion was made to add Tammy Mannarino to the Activity Committee by Suzanne Moffitt and seconded by Elizabeth Crowell. Motioned approved.

**Review Activity Committee Projects**

**PROJECTS:**

Suzanne & Forrest – Reenact Reading of Declaration of Independence: will just pursue Pohick Church; Suzanne in contact with Rev. Lynn Ronaldi, Pohick Episcopal Church. ACTION: Confirm their annual event as a Commission event for July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 2025, and 2026; or just promote a July 4, 2026 event? Mentioned adding 250<sup>th</sup> Commission activities on *Patch*.

Janice – Sponsor a Naturalization Ceremony: Determine the date it will be held in 2025 and arrange then. Possible locations to be held – County Government facility; Fairfax Historic Courthouse; Wolf Trap’s Filene Center or The Barns, Old Fairfax City Hall. ACTION: Janice will prepare Proposal for this event and submit before the next Activity Committee meeting.

Janice & Bev – Story Corp: Added Tammy to this planning sub-committee.

Bev & Janice – Debate Between Loyalists and Revolutionaries: Forrest suggested a possible performance debate between re-enactors, such as Rev Lee Massey, George Mason, or George Washington.

Bev – Performance of 1776: Cost of FCPS high school students performing would be \$10K just to secure the performance rights.

Janice – Commemoration Wall: What America Means to Me or What it Means to be an American”: Suzanne suggested this might be appropriate activity for the Youth and Family Engagement Committee?

Forrest – 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Signing of Fairfax Resolves, 18 July 1774: Shared draft of a 3-day event planned by Fairfax Resolves SAR – July 18-20, 2024. Tammy suggested the Commission look into commissioning a reprint of the Fairfax Resolves – either professional printers or FC Print Shop. Could be in several sizes. Give away or sell?

Forrest – 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Fairfax Independent Company of Volunteers, 21 Sept 1774: Date & Location TBD; maybe US Army Museum.

Elizabeth Maurer – Reported the US Museum of the Army is holding a public symposium in 2025 to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the US Army, July 2025. Multiple events scheduled for 2025 through 2027.

Elizabeth Crowell suggested the need for the Commission to schedule a Committee Chairs meeting. Liz M agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:22 pm.

**Next Meeting** – February 28, 2024, 1 – 2:30 PM @ City of Fairfax Library.

Attachment 2

**Fairfax 250th Commission Activity Committee**  
**Meeting Date: February 21, 2023**  
**Location: City of Fairfax Regional Library, Room 214**  
Prepared by Brent Feito

**Attendees:**

Suzanne Moffitt  
Chair Bev Schlotterbeck  
Brent Feito  
Janice Dixon  
Forrest Crane  
Elizabeth Crowell  
Elizabeth Mauer  
Tammy Mannarino

**Minutes**

- **Pohick Church**
  - Tammy is going to have a meeting with Pohick church to discuss what their plans are for the 250th.
- **AHF** - nothing to report as far as new progress on events
- **NMUSA** - Nothing new to report
- **Naturalization Ceremony** - Janice will research possible locations for the next meeting and contact just to know whether they would be interested.
  - Will this effort need funding? - at this time it is not clear whether it is needed but could be put on by DAR and would not require funding from the 250th commission.
    - Think of a government center instead of a historic location as it will be easier to host.
      - If we do this over three years, it is possible to do both.
- **Story Collection Idea** - commission was looking at incorporating it into the signature event, as a component of the exhibit.
  - Possibilities for storing - StoryCorps, the Virginia Room, or the Federal level 250th commission.
  - The National 250th question is not “what does it mean to be an American” it is “What is your hope for the future of America?”
  - Who will do the recordings? Channel 16, or the signature event.
  - How would we request whether story collection could be part of the signature event

- Now is the time to present that as a possible component of the exhibit.
- On StoryCorps, the State site does not have any mechanism for story collection, but the state site does have a collection, and a website portal to do so.
- Could be many mediums, including a commemoration wall.
- StoryCorps is an already existing app that is built for oral history. There is an app where you can register and record, including a waiver.
- Something was done related to the Civil War.
- Who is going to access this and what is its function?
  - Historical research? The Historical Record?
  - We are looking forward and capturing the current feeling of the country.
  - Channel 16 would be helpful for creating something that can showcase this effort.
- Liz suggests that each idea be discussed separately - how are they selected and how long they should be.
- Does not think that they are archiving that in perpetuity.
- Patrick says that channel 16 is very interested in supporting these activities.
- StoryCorps has infrastructure that can be worked with and requested, that is another route.
- The city of Alexandria has a story collection effort that includes a complex waiver that includes what they are allowed to do with the material.
- Just needs to be decided which direction is being gone in - StoryCorps, channel 16, both?
- This is Bev, Tammy and Janice as the team working on it.
- **Passport**
  - Liz talked to Fairfax county sites people, and they are very excited about doing the passport effort (park authority sites)
  - There is now a member of the Fairfax Park Authority on the commission, and we can ask her.
  - Could work in 250th commission activities as well.
  - Historic buildings may have an 18th century tobacco port.
- **Debate**
  - Forrest Crane has not heard anything from the George Mason Reenactor.
  - It will be hard to get a loyalist, but need to look around
  - Who will script it?
  - Could a debate society script it?



- Will it be dynamic enough for people to come and stay?
- Thomas Fairfax is a loyalist; Brian Fairfax is on the fence and arrested.
- Could contact Mount Vernon or JYF about hiring interpreters.
  - Talk to Mount Vernon and JYF about folks to play the Loyalists.
- Brent will join Bev on 1776
- **Commemoration Wall**
  - Nothing to report
- **Fairfax Resolves:**
  - Four ceremonies are planned - 3 on the 18th and one on the 20th of July.
    - (20th) Mount Vernon at GW's Tomb, Gunston Hall, Pohick Church, 4th - Market Square in the city of Alexandria.
    - Reenactors will be delivering addresses
    - They have reached out to the Old Guard to see if they can perform.
    - Seeking government officials to speak at the 20th of July events, including the governor's office as well as the congressman, Mayor of Alexandria, or proclamations.
    - Can contact the state delegates, trying to make sure that it is not too political.
    - Reprinting of the Fairfax resolves - everyone is very excited. They are looking at having the History commission print them as it is unclear whether finances will be available from the FFX 250th commission.
    - They are reaching out to descendants of the signers.
    - SAR are having an event for descendants at Gatsby's Tavern.
    - IT would be GREAT if funds were available to print these with the 250th commission Logo.
    - Descendent has a copy of the Fairfax resolves that is printed as a large scale.
    - John West Historical Marker
- **Foundation of the militia company -**
  - No updates.
- **Form for submission to the website.**
  - Find out what information is needed to post on the website
- **Cross collaboration among commissions in Loudoun county and city of Alexandria should be discussed at the committee head level.**

Attachment 3

**Fairfax County 250th Commission  
Chairs Committee Meeting  
February 23, 2024, 10am-12:00pm  
Visit Fairfax, 10560 Arrowhead Dr, Suite 350, Fairfax**

**Attendees:**

Elliot Bell-Krasner  
Gretchen Bulova  
Patrick Lennon  
Elizabeth Maurer  
Suzanne Moffitt  
Ashley Morris  
Nancy Simmons

Elliot opened the meeting and noted a quorum was present. Because it had been difficult to schedule in person meetings for this group, Patrick said he would talk to Denice Dressel about whether the county's policy on virtual meetings applies to this group, which is an ad hoc committee and not one specified by county actions.

We discussed having town hall informational meetings. At the previous meeting, Nancy had agreed to reserve meeting rooms for about 30 people at libraries across the county. She reported that she had set up eight meetings—one at each of the regional libraries—from mid-March to late April. After some discussion, the group decided that fewer meetings would work better, probably at the Government Center. Ashley was able to request space at the Government Center for April 12 and April 29 in the afternoon, approval pending. We selected April 17 from 7-9 pm for a virtual session, which Elliot will organize. Everyone agreed that Nancy could cancel the library reservations.

In discussing the content of the information to be presented, both Gretchen & Liz shared presentations that they had presented. They will coordinate to pull together a PowerPoint presentation to be used for the information sessions. Gretchen & Patrick will coordinate on materials that might be distributed at the sessions.

Ashley & Patrick will determine options for setting up emails under a domain that can be used to send and receive commission emails using the list assembled by the Outreach Committee. A backup plan is to create a Gmail account.

Because the Activities and Inclusion Committees have both discussed conducting oral histories, Elliot & Suzanne will coordinate on that effort.

Nancy volunteered to write the minutes for this meeting and Ashley said she would send the minutes from the last meeting.

250<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting Minutes  
March 21, 2024

The next chairs' meeting will be March 8, 2024, and will be held virtually. Elliot will send a Zoom invitation for that meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Simmons