

**Fairfax County Semiquincentennial Work Group
Virtual Webex Meeting
February 19, 2021, 2:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes - Approved**

In attendance:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Location</u>
Scott Stroh, Gunston Hall	Mason Neck, VA
George Alber, Human Rights Commissioner	Centreville, VA
Julie Almay, George Washington's Mount Vernon	Mount Vernon, VA
Gretchen Bulova, History Commissioner	Fairfax, VA
Denice Dressel, Department of Planning and Development	Haymarket, VA
Patrick Lennon, Visit Fairfax	Fairfax, VA
Mary Lipsey, History Commissioner	Springfield, VA
Elizabeth (Liz) Maurer, National Museum of the US Army	Belview, VA
Laura Wickstead, Virginia Room of the Fairfax Regional Library	City of Fairfax, VA

Members absent:

Kenneth Saunders, Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs
Cameron Brumett, The Army Historical Foundation

Mount Vernon Supervisor Office Representatives

Christine Morin, Chief of Staff, Mount Vernon District

Requisite motions for electronic meetings – passed unanimously.

Scott Stroh, Chair, led the workgroup through the agenda items:

Introductions and Affiliations

Each member introduced themselves, stated their affiliation and their interest in the Semiquincentennial workgroup.

Comments from Supervisor Storck

Christine Morin commented for Supervisor Storck who was unable to connect to the meeting. She indicated that Camela Speer, the Communications Director from their office, will be the primary contact for the group. Christine thanked the group for their work.

Presentation

Review of Previous Fairfax County Commemorations and Lessons Learned - Presentation and discussion led by Gretchen Bulova, Patrick Lennon, Mary Lipsey, and Laura Wickstead from the past three commemorations:

- Sesquicentennial of the Civil War
 - Started planning in 2010, wrap up in 2016
 - Structure: Steering Committee with subcommittees – key point

- History – 11 Civil War Trails historical markers (major product) which covered each supervisor district – key point
 - Education – education kit, online driving tour, Civil War brochure
 - Finance
 - Events
 - History Commission Committee
 - Timeline of events drove project – Virginia gave guidance and took lead – state provided logo and vetted all events
 - Supported other organizations events through attendance and funding
 - \$56,450 spent in a combination of funds – County, grant, donations
 - Additional funding source – Virginia Tourism Corporation Marketing Grant
 - Visit Fairfax was the central repository for the finances held in a restricted account - reported back to the County Ex each year.
 - Visit Fairfax hosted website
 - Identified Difficulties/Opportunities:
 - Educational tools are no longer being accessed due to lack of promotion; CW brochure needs to be updated
 - Engaging FCPS
 - Diversifying narratives
- WW I Commemoration
 - One shot event, November 11, 2017
 - Structure: Steering Committee of History Commission, Virginia Room, Court Historic Records Center, and Sheriff's Dept.
 - Commemoration ceremony at the War Memorial at Courthouse
 - Funding – History Commission, SAR, private donations, and in-kind donations
 - Produced commemorative brochure
 - Identified Difficulties/Opportunities: Competing events
- Fairfax County's 275th Anniversary
 - Planning started in 2014, commemoration 2017, wrap up 2018
 - **History Fair – signature event (5000+ attended)**
 - Structure: Steering Committee partnering with large partner group, 50+ groups
 - Multiple projects – logo and branding, publications, events, educational pieces
 - Funding – \$44,000 total - History Commission, County, in-kind contributions for signature event
 - Identified Difficulties/Opportunities:
 - Corporate funding
 - Rely on Celebrate Fairfax for coordination of large signature event
- Recommendations for 250th commemorative group
 - Steering Committee
 - Add representatives from Arts Council, FCPS, FCPA, NOVA Parks, NPS, Celebrate Fairfax, and a liaison from each Supervisor District
 - Coordination with neighboring jurisdictions, Cities and Towns
 - Form subcommittees with Chairs
 - Identify financial coordinating entity
 - Engage the larger community with specific ideas and requests

- Use social media
- If there is to be a large signature event, start planning asap
- Partner with Celebrate Fairfax for signature event
- Identify County Assets associated with the Revolutionary War

Q &A/Open Forum

- George Alber
 - Recommended including Gum Springs, Spring Bank, the Quander Family, Tinner Hill and the broader story, Ed Henderson
 - Offered to assist with engaging FCPS – ties to School Board through the renaming process
- Patrick Lennon
 - Need to identify Revolutionary War assets but also identify and reach out to groups that have been engaged with civil liberty struggles and get their perspectives
- Scott Stroh
 - A commemoration of ideas more than the war or a particular moment in time - group will need to think about the boundaries. Will need to include in report to the Board.
- Gretchen Bulova
 - A spin on “Virginia is for lovers of fill in the blank”: Fairfax is for “Revolution Art,” “Revolutionary Ideas”
 - Need to have direction from the State Commission – potentially wrapping up next month
- Mary Lipsey
 - Suggested themes of Democracy and Independence and how those themes effect all populations in Virginia
 - African Americans that fought in the Rev. War and then were denied their freedom
- Patrick Lennon
 - Benefit of groups coming and working together – good opportunity for synergy
- Laura Wickstead
 - Recommended the diversification of the workgroup itself

Admin Items

- Minutes moved and unanimously approved.
- Question of expanding the workgroup – Supervisor Storck approved. Scott Stroh called for suggestions for including in the workgroup, in addition to the representative from GMU.
- Timing of budget request – Confirmed with Supervisor Storck that the budget request would be submitted at the time of the report to the Board, to be voted on by the Board in September.
- Meeting schedule – Agreed on the third Friday of the month at 2:30 as a regular meeting time. Noted that June 16th is a Statewide holiday and will affect the group’s meeting schedule.

Adjourned at 3:51pm