

January 31, 2022

Redistricting Advisory Committee – Sub-committee Summary

Discussion centered on conceptual distinction between commemoration of Confederate names and associated properties and historical landmarks. Sub-committee members agree that the intent of the process conducted by the Redistricting Advisory Committee is not to erase history but to align the values of the community with the One Fairfax policy on accountability and racial and social equity.

After discussion with the public:

Sub-committee agrees that *commemoration*, which means a celebration in which a person or event is remembered, of Confederate names and associated properties does not reflect the values of our community today. Confederate commemorations began in the late 19th century and early 20th century as part of the rise of the “Lost Cause of the Confederacy.” Lost Cause proponents sought to alter narratives about the Civil War by denying the centrality of slavery. Moreover, Lost Cause proponents were part of efforts to counter the fight for civil rights and to enforce laws and practices that supported white supremacy. Commemorations occurred what is known as the Jim Crow era. The intent of the commemoration of names and properties associated with the Confederacy is to carry forward a dark part of our community’s history by mythologizing the historical narrative. For this reason, these commemorations – Confederate names attached to streets, highways, properties, precincts, and districts – cannot be recommended to continue within Fairfax County.

Sub-committee agrees the candidate names associated with a Confederate past and/or segregation, Jim Crow, racism, discrimination should be recommended to be changed by the Board of Supervisors. These names include Lee District, Sully District, Mosby Precinct, Ravensworth, Stuart, Van Dorn, Graham-Greenway, Oak Marr, Penderbrook, and Lee’s Corner.

Sub-committee acknowledges that historical data is inconclusive whether Lee District is named for Robert E. Lee or a family member. However, consideration should be given to a name change given the context of all the Confederate names that are in use within Fairfax County. To change some name but not all would be inconsistent.

Hollin Hall is not associated with the Confederacy. It was owned by George Mason and subsequently his son, Thomas Mason. The name is, in fact, associated with slave ownership, given the historical significance of Hollin Hall and given that it is not part of the Lost Cause commemoration of the Confederacy, this name should not be changed or removed.

References:

Blight, D. (2001). *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*. Boston: Harvard University Press.

Davis, W. (1996). *The Cause Lost: Myths and Realities of the Confederacy* (1st ed.). Lawrence: Univ Press of Kansas.

Fairfax County Confederate Names Inventory Report, History Commission, December 8, 2020

Gallagher, G., Nolan, A., eds. (2000). *The Myth of the Lost Cause and Civil War History*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

George Mason's Plantations & Landholdings: Hollin Hall, gunstonhall.org

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, "Our History"