

Watson, Malcolm

From: Evelyn Spain
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:52 AM
To:
Cc: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Subject:

Morning Ed,

I agree with with everything stated in Kristi's email. I stand by the decisions that have been voted on by the members of CNTF Subcommittee, the deadline set by the BOS and confirm all CNTF subcommittee correspondence has been shared by Malcolm.

Thank you for sharing thoughts.

Chair Spain

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 10, 2021, at 8:58 PM, kristi dooley> wrote:

Hi Ed,

What the subgroup agreed to was the one page sheet that Blake and Shirley worked on and the that the subgroup approved (the Task Force purpose and historical context of the highway names) being at the beginning of the survey's online version, as well as on the front page of the paper version of the survey, as a handout at the public feedback meetings, and as information that will be placed on the web site as well. Since the postcard being sent countywide links all county residents to the web site where this information is already included, there was no other conversation about a need for any additional link. Anyone who goes to the link on the postcard will already find that information there. Hopefully that addresses your concerns.

With respect to the timing of the process, we are very clear with the Board's intent for the timeframe in which the work is to be completed, and we are proceeding accordingly, as we've shared with you. Please note that doesn't preclude you from voicing your own concerns to your Board member at any time.

To my knowledge, we have not received any other emails from Task Force members with additional information or requests since our last meeting on September 20 (other than a few emails coordinating aspects of the subgroup's work). I think Malcolm has sent out to the full Task Force your emails that have detailed your concerns about timing and any other content-related issues. Just wanted to put you at ease with respect to that. You aren't missing any other correspondence from other TF members because there hasn't been any.

Hope that's helpful. Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow night!

Best,
Kristi

From: <edtw
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3:49 PM
To: 'evelyn spain'
Cc:
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn,

There are a few problems here.

- 1) Did the sub-group quorum realize that the historical basis for the highway names *had no link* on the post card before they voted to accept it? I certainly did not. I have no notes of planners or facilitators calling attention to that fact, or of anyone noting it beforehand. Am I wrong? Perhaps others did and said nothing about it, but I myself did not realize that the post card lacked that information. I only noticed it when I returned home from the Oct. 7 meeting.
- 2) This process is being rushed along with much of the work being done behind the scenes. The prepared material is then brought forth at our meetings with little time for the rest of us to think about what we are looking at, or, if there are other factors that should be considered.
- 3) Yes, I have raised questions about the time-line before, and have noted the lack of interest in extending the time period. Perhaps TF organizers are not permitted to push back against the BOS. Indeed this process is like a freight train going down the track, and no delays are permitted.
- 4) Among the meeting materials for Monday Oct. 11 (sent late Friday, Oct. 8) I find no attachment containing the e-mails and messages exchanged between members, staff, and facilitators since our last full meeting on September 20. That's a three week stretch in which TF members remain uninformed and out of the loop on important points raised between myself and the Chair, organizers, and facilitators. Where are those messages? Will the other TF members see them? And where are their messages? I assume that I am not the only one with points to make, and that others are having input too. I'd appreciate knowing their views as well.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: evelyn spain
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:21 AM
To: edtw
Cc:
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

Thank you for your feedback. The website will contain the “ Overview” link. This will allow the reader to click on the link and go directly to the overview information. Please note the quorum of subcommittee members voted on accepting the postcard as it currently stands.

We have addressed the timeline concerns numerous times, both in the CNTF meetings and with the BOS. Our commitment to meeting the deadline as stated in the initial scope remains the same.

Best,

Evelyn

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 8:53 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Yes, good evening Evelyn,

It took me a while to realize that the card did not include a link to background on the highway names. When the post card was first presented on Sept. 28, the task force did not intend it to be mailed to all residences. I then raised the issue about excluding voters and taxpayers. Now that it will be mailed to all residences (as per last night), the reasons for including the “Highway Overviews” are critical for informed decision making. Surely there is space on the card for another line with a link. That time is short is understood. However, my suggestion that the task force inform the BOS that their deadline should be extended was deemed not possible. Why, I don’t know. Sometimes plans have to be changed.

I do know that the BOS wants this business wrapped up asap so they can take their vote. But the pace at which the process is moving is almost dizzying. I have a blitz of paper here and TF staff and facilitators are working overtime to produce more. Frankly, I think it would be prudent to slow down the train and give us time to think things through—like what should go on the postcards—not hasten the train onward with safety checks not made. We need time to think and consider, and not be rushed to the finish line.

Thank you for your patience on this important matter,
Ed Wenzel

PS The “Overview” link should not only be on the post cards, but on the web site as well.

From: Spain, Evelyn

Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 7:36 PM

To: [edtw](#)

Cc:

Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Evening Ed,

Thank you so much for the compliment.

I don't recall that the postcard was ever going to include a link to the "Highway Overviews". Understanding how strongly you feel that this information needs to be shared with the public, you can ask if its' possible to put it on the website provided the Task Force agrees. Please remember, we are up against a tight deadline and it was strongly stated that changes unless it's a grave error, can not be made at this late stage.

By all means please feel free to share your concerns during the meeting on Monday. Please also let the group know you are happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Dr Shedd and I rode by there Thursday night on the way home from our meeting.

Thank you for offering.

Best,

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 1:46 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Good afternoon Evelyn,
Sorry for the delay. Yes, I am very happy that the TF has decided to mail post cards to County residences. That's good. And I compliment you

and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the "Highway Overviews" which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the "overview info" should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

Also, on the "Overview" sheet, under "Highway Overviews," in the next line, after each highway's name, I suggest adding the words "How this highway got its name." That will make it clear what the "Overview" is about.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS My concerns remain about the BOS motivation on these names. We all know what they did last year (which in my view was absolutely disgraceful), and what they want recommended on these names. I hope and pray that the uniqueness of Fairfax County's Civil War heritage is not further erased by guilt and politics-driven wokeness. Every locality has a "sense of place" and the Civil War put a massive stamp on Fairfax County. It is our history and it should not be subjected to cultural cleansing. As I said last night, I would happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park for anyone who might be interested.

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 10:13 AM
To: [edtw](#)
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

I believe we addressed this last evening during our sub committee meeting. Please let me know if you have any additional concerns around the USPS item.

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 7, 2021, at 9:33 AM, [edtw](#)
wrote:

Mr. Watson,

I received no reply yesterday to my query about the Sub-Group minutes not containing an important point of information: That the Task Force *will not utilize* the USPS to provide information to all Fairfax County households regarding changing the highway names. Instead, other selective means will be used for sampling purposes, but nothing will be targeted at the voters/taxpayers. The minutes should reflect that the Task Force will not use the USPS to contact voters on this important matter.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:14 AM
To: 'Watson, Malcolm'
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public
Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for forwarding the minutes of the Sub-Group meeting last week. I noticed there is one point missing from those minutes: I believe I asked whether the public survey would be mailed to all households in Fairfax County (via USPS) in order to give all voters and taxpayers the opportunity to respond to the proposed highway name changes. I noted that the response to this question was negative and that other means of communication were planned such as Supervisor's on-line newsletters, mailouts of postcards to the business community nearest the highways, County websites, chambers of commerce, social media (someone said millennials get their information there), "hashtags," and probably other means which I have forgotten. In any event, those means of outreach are limited and do not include the vast majority of Fairfax citizens.

I firmly believe that Fairfax voters and taxpayers should decide this name issue on a ballot referendum. That's the only "fair" way to decide whether or not to change the names of two primary highways that have existed here for 100 years— names that reflect the Civil War heritage of Fairfax County and make us unique in the Washington area. I've raised this issue several times before but no one seems interested in the logic of it. I think I understand why. The BOS does not want voters weighing in because they might reject the costly and ideologically driven agenda and cast their votes to keep the existing names. And the BOS wants those names and history erased. So no referendum, and they appoint a task force guided by paid contract facilitators to steer us toward name changes. For the BOS, that's much easier to accomplish than convincing hundreds of thousands of taxpayers and voters to agree with their anti-heritage and anti-Civil War name hysteria.

I strongly urge the task force to halt the planned path we are on and inform the BOS that in fairness to all the people of Fairfax, they should call a voter referendum to decide this issue. Any other device that's used to effect name changes is merely a way of avoiding the common sense and wisdom of the voters. No thirty individuals on a "task force" should decide for 1.2 million residents, and no BOS should arbitrarily change those names without voter agreement.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm<
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM

To: Spain, Evelyn

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public

Engagement Sub-Group Chair Spain and others, In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7, attached are the meeting minutes for your review and comment. Thanks in advance. Please let me know if I have missed something or misrepresented any topics discussed at the meeting.

Malcolm Watson



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Watson, Malcolm; Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Kristi Dooley; Dominguez, Noelle C.; Nissinen, Anna; Geiger, Robin; 'Juliette R Shedd'
Subject: RE: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Thank you, Mr. Watson, for forwarding the messages below. I hope these and other member's messages will be provided to the rest of the Task Force well before the next regular meeting. I await seeing the comments of other TF members..

Thank you, sir.
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 3:30 PM
To: edtw; Spain, Evelyn
Cc:
Subject: RE: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Good afternoon Chair Spain and Mr. Wenzel, Thank you both for following up. It is our sincere intention to remain as transparent as possible as we move through this process. Regarding Mr. Wenzel's email sent to Ms. Dooley on September 14, please refer to the attached document, which compiles the email and text messages we received prior to the meeting on September 20. Mr. Wenzel's email begins on page five and concludes with links directing people to additional information on Lee Highway and supplementary material by Walter Williams on page seven.

Thanks again,
Malcolm Watson
Transportation Planner

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Kristi Dooley
Subject: RE: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Good morning, Ms. Spain,

Thank you for following up on this matter. I have two comments:

One: The BOS is on public record with its opinion and with actions already taken—that Confederate names and memorials are "offensive" and should be changed or removed. I'm sure that the Task Force organizers and facilitators

know this and are steering the Task Force to that end. Facilitator statements made at the subgroup meeting last week confirm this.

Two: In regard to the exclusion of Fairfax Voters from deciding the fate of the names, why is that “out of our scope?” Is our task force not permitted to question the BOS? Is the issue of fairness regarding these names not our concern? Task Force members were led through DEI at our very first meeting, so “fairness” must rate very high with Task Force organizers and facilitators.

I would ask the Chair to stand for fairness, and to go back to the BOS with a strong recommendation that the voters and tax payers of Fairfax County are the ones who ought to decide whether the names of Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway should be changed. The BOS is already on public record with their intolerance and bigotry regarding Confederate names and associations in Fairfax County. Why would this Task Force bow to supervisors who have displayed so much animosity already?

“A country that forgets its past has no future.” Churchill.

Ed Wenzel

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 8:54 AM
To: [edtw](#); Watson, Malcolm
Cc: Kristi Dooley
Subject: Re: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Morning Mr. Wenzel,

I believe the September 14th email was sent out but I am following up with Mr Watson right after I send you this email. I do appreciate your passion and commitment to ensuring the Confederate Names Task Force and as stated earlier, the BOS will accept whatever recommendation we bring to the December 2021 board meeting. In my mind that means they have an open mind and will consider all options.

We will ensure as a unified group that we vote on whatever message the Confederate Names Task Force agrees upon before bringing it to the BOS and public engagement activities. As far as allowing the constituents of Fairfax to vote on this matter , it has already been discussed that this is out of our scope and has been put to rest.

Let me reiterate, moving forward I will ensure we vote on every item, concern, or suggestion made within the CNTF sub committee and full membership groups. This will so ensure have a documented record of decisions made as we move forward.

I have spoken with Mr.Watson and advised him to please share this email chain with the rest of the CNTF.

Thank you,

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 1, 2021, at 6:28 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Ms. Evelyn Spain, Chair,
Confederate Names Task Force

Dear Ms. Spain,

I regret having to bother you again, but you should know that my Sept. 14th e-mail which addressed Lee Highway and other related matters, still has not been disseminated to Task Force members. [See e-mails below and especially the subject e-mail at the bottom.] How are we to communicate information to other members if our messages are held for weeks before being released only days before the next meeting? This severely handicaps TF members and prevents critical information from being disseminated in a timely fashion. Please see what's holding up distribution of my e-mail which contains six links to the history of Lee Highway and Gen. R.E. Lee, and four links to columns by Walter E. Washington that are relevant to this matter. TF members should have seen this information long ago.

In regard to the Sept. 28 subgroup meeting, there were two statements made by the facilitators that I found disturbing. First, that the mission of this task force is "not to educate," and secondly, that they want us to "move away from the past and toward the future." "What do we want today?" as one asked. Those statements confirm what has been obvious to me since the beginning—that Task Force organizers and facilitators are there to lead this group in the direction of name changes. I have commented before that the BOS wants these highway names changed, just as they do any name or memorial that reflects or acknowledges Confederate heritage in this county. We have been assured at our meetings that the BOS has made no decisions about the highway names, but that's not believable. Supervisor's statements, past actions, correspondence, media coverage, and TF documents are clear about what the BOS wants. I believe that this Task Force was conceived to provide political cover for a decision that has already been made and that's why we are being led "away from the past (Civil War heritage) and toward the future"—whatever that means. However, we can be assured that the BOS' vision for Fairfax does not include reminders of the Civil War, especially any Confederate reminders.

At our first meeting in August, we heard a lecture about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion—the message being (I suppose) that there is something wrong with names that reflect our Civil War past, at least in the minds of some. I have commented that "diversity" means a multiplicity, a variety, more than one, etc. Yet, in this case, the BOS seeks to erase diversity, just as they did with the perfectly fine Marr monument which stood beside the street where the first action of the war occurred. Why? Because *Marr was a Confederate*, period. I call that bigotry and intolerance. That monument wasn't even "to" Capt. Marr. The inscription only gave a bearing and distance to where his body was found—the first Confederate to die in action in the war. Nothing else. The removal of that landmark monument and the two cannon was a disgraceful gesture to "wokeness" that robbed Fairfax County and Fairfax City of a 116-year-old historical monument and an important remembrance of Civil War heritage in Fairfax.

I support the diverse groups who populate Fairfax County today, as does everyone else I know. However, as a native of this area, I am conscious of the Confederate history in a county that voted overwhelmingly for secession. I am also well acquainted with the two monuments to Union Generals Kearny and Stevens who were killed in the Battle of Ox Hill near Rt. 50. No one has suggested that those two monuments be removed or be hidden in a warehouse, or be "contextualized." The fact that Union monuments exist at all in this county, is a tribute to John Ballard, a former Confederate cavalryman (of Mosby's command) who owned the farm where the battle was fought. It was Ballard and his wife, Mary, who gave the land to Union soldiers so they could erect monuments to their fallen generals. And it was Ballard who led the effort to put up the monument beside Main Street in Fairfax

marking Marr's death in the first action of the war (Fairfax C. H. Raid, June 1, 1861). While Fairfax County brags that we are the "Gateway to America's Heritage," the current BOS has proven that they only care about certain heritage, and have been quick to dismiss and condemn Confederate heritage for which, except for slavery, they show zero understanding.

I am for everyone's heritage. If names or reminders are needed to reflect other heritage in Fairfax, I think you will find interested parties in local groups, including myself, who would look favorably on such an endeavor. Reminders of people who were enslaved on farms in the county, or their descendants who accomplished so much during the Jim Crow era would certainly be worthy of recognition. We do have a "diverse" heritage here and it covers a broad spectrum. That said, the Civil War dominates the history of Virginia and of Fairfax, and it was the defining event in the history of America. The death toll was staggering. With a population of only 31 million people in both the north and south, 750,000 perished (including civilians).

The names Lee highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway in Fairfax are an important part of our Civil War heritage. They give Fairfax a sense of place in northern Virginia where so much of the war occurred, and they distinguish us from other counties in the Washington area. Fairfax is the place where Lee and Jackson brought the war to the doorstep of Washington, when only 90 days before, the Federal army was at the gates of Richmond. Such was the tactical genius of Lee and Jackson (and Longstreet), that in three months' time they were able to defeat two Union armies and transfer the war from Richmond to Fairfax County (Ox Hill) in the shadow of the Union capitol dome. Lee and Jackson were Virginia heroes and are forever linked in Confederate memory. Even foes and military officers abroad praised their military tactics and what they accomplished with inferior numbers. No matter their human faults, Lee and Jackson will always command respect as American military leaders of the highest caliber.

I have also commented that "inclusion," as in DEI, is not what this TF is about. The Confederate Names Task Force is actually about "exclusion." The Task Force, despite its planned "community engagement" with post cards, social media, websites, hash tags, chambers of commerce, and other such targets, will come up short and will exclude hundreds of thousands of Fairfax voters from having any say in whether or not these century-old highway names are removed. I have mentioned twice before that no 30 hand-picked people, nor the BOS itself, should have any right to change the names of primary highways without a voter referendum. To be "fair"—as I'm certain we all believe we are—Fairfax voters should be included in any decision of this magnitude. But, perhaps the BOS does not trust the voters to make the "correct" decision? I think any plan that excludes a referendum is designed to usher name changes through the bureaucratic system before anyone can stop it. And that's why the BOS will not rescind its artificial December deadline.

On a final note, the History Commission report has been praised as the last word on Confederate names. However, there are some errors and distortions in that document and the TF should be careful what it cites.

I hope you can disseminate my Sept. 14th e-mail before any more time passes. (See bottom of this thread.) Also, please make sure that this e-mail is forwarded to members as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 11:07 AM

To: 'Watson, Malcolm'
Cc: 'Spain, Evelyn' ; 'Kristi Dooley'
Subject: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14

Mr. Watson,

Concerning the missing e-mail (below, Sept. 14) that was not included in the packet sent out prior to our Sept. 20 meeting—when do you anticipate that TF members will see it? Waiting until a few days before the next meeting (Oct. 11) is not good. That e-mail information (including 10 relevant links) should have been seen and read prior to the last regular meeting. It was unfortunate that it was not in the packet. The sooner that members receive it the better.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 3:06 PM
To: 'Spain, Evelyn'
Subject: RE:

Thanks you, Ms. Spain. Looking forward to tonight's meeting.

Regards,
Ed Wenzel

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2021 7:03 PM
To: [edtw](#)
Cc: Watson, Malcolm; Kristi Dooley

Subject: Re:

Dear Mr. Wendell,

Thank you for notifying us that one of your emails is missing. I will check in with Malcom first thing Monday morning to ensure he sends out your Sept 14th email. Please be assured that it is our intention to remain transparent throughout the Confederate Names Task Force process.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Sep 18, 2021, at 2:17 PM, [edtw](#) wrote:

Ms. Evelyn Spain,
Chair, Confederate Names Task Force

Dear Ms. Spain,

I want to call your attention to the e-mails I sent to Ms. Dooley this past week (Sept. 14 and 16) relative to the topics being considered by the TF. In the Messages and Tweets attachment received from Mr. Watson yesterday, I noticed that my Sept. 14 message is missing. That e-mail concerned the meeting last Monday (Sept. 13) and included five links to important Lee Highway information, four links to pertinent columns by Walter E. Williams, and a link to a book review and comments on the Letters and Recollections of R.E. Lee as published by his son in 1904.

The Lee Highway information is critical for TF understanding of why the road was so named, and Walter Williams' columns throw light on Historical Ignorance, Abraham Lincoln, Black history/White Guilt, and DEI "Nonsense" as he terms it. In addition, I included the Lee material as necessary in view of the current narrative that he fought to destroy the U. S. Government, which is not true. Please see that my email of Sept 14 is provided to the TF for their scrutiny.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS I assume that Messages, Tweets, or other communications by TF members to staff will be published in the final report. Is that correct? I want to be certain that pertinent material and other concerns are not excluded from the published report, or from public knowledge. Thanks again.

From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 11:25 PM

To: 'Kristi Dooley'

Subject: Confederate Names and R.E. Lee, Recollections and Letters etc.

Hi Kristi,

At the meeting last night a number of statements were made, including by the guest speaker, that I took some exception to. The format of the meetings is such that one cannot unmute and interject. That would be discourteous to the person speaking. So one must wait, and one person should not monopolize time that has to be shared by all. Also, if I pick up on a point to make, that does not mean that I can formulate the words for a question or comment immediately. So even if I could interject a comment, the time for it passes. I guess I'm not so good at notetaking or articulating thoughts on the fly.

I also perceive that the planners of the agenda assume that most people generally do not know about Lost Cause efforts to minimize slavery, or the exalting of the war effort and the top generals. That may be true for some, but

for those who have studied the war, we have listened to countless lectures over the years and read about most aspects of CW history beyond the battles, i.e.: the legality of secession, state sovereignty and loyalty, Reconstruction, KKK violence, Jubal Early's cabal etc.

Following Reconstruction, white political corruption was (I believe) a direct reaction to the Radical Republicans and the Union Leagues who swarmed the region after the war and helped elect blacks to power at state and local levels—all to ensure a permanent black Republican political base while ex-Confederates were disenfranchised. When one considers Republican efforts to divide freedmen from former masters and whites, does it not throw some light on possible reasons for violence and black voting restrictions as whites corruptly regained power? As evil as it was, one has to look beyond the obvious. For every action, there is a reaction. If you turn a 240-year-old culture and way of life upside-down by force and destruction, and kill 750,000 people while you're at it, wouldn't you expect to encounter bitter resentment that might lead to bad consequences? Could it have been otherwise? Yes, I think it could have.

Below is a link to a "Goodreads" review of a republished *Recollections and Letters of General Robert E. Lee* by his youngest son, Capt. R.E. Lee Jr. in 1904. Be sure to read the entirety of readers comments afterward. I forward this link to counter the view that Lee was simply a "traitor" and a "slaveowner" who wanted to "destroy" the United States. I heard something similar said last night about Lee and Stonewall Jackson. It's the current media narrative which Dr. Tarter knows is not true. <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11061428-recollections-and-letters-of-general-robert-e-lee>

As I mentioned, **Lee Highway** was one of a hundred or more named "Auto Trails" that "good roads" organizations were advocating for in the early 20th century. The nation's roads at that time were little better than they were during the Civil War. The roads were muddy, rutted obstacles at the dawn of the automobile age. When Model T Fords appeared in 1908, they were designed to navigate these horrible roads, but it was obvious to businessmen and local boosters that improved roads were desperately needed. The Great War in Europe and a young army officer named Dwight Eisenhower also figured in the great American road story and the linking together of transcontinental routes under various names.

The links below provide historical context. I think it's obvious that the name "Lee Highway" did not arise from any Jim Crow intention to intimidate or insult black people, or to project "white supremacy." In reality, Lee's name was obvious for a Southern transcontinental route just as the Lincoln Highway was a shoo-in for a Northern route. Remember, this is the 50th Anniversary period and veterans of both sides are still living and Lee was a Southern hero. The background below on **Lee Highway** and the transcontinental road movement should have been a priority for task force agenda planners rather than One Fairfax, DEI, and Mr. Tarter's take on the Lost Cause and white superiority.

Lee Highway

<https://americanroads.us/autotrails/leehighway.html>

Dr. S.M. Johnson, A Dreamer of Dreams. FHA Highway History, The Lee Highway, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Lee Boulevard

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/johnson.cfm>

Zero Milestone in Washington D.C.

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/zero.cfm>

Photo Gallery Along Lee Highway (Mid-1920s)

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/johngal2.cfm>

Lee Highway, Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Highway

Added material:

The links below are columns by the late Walter E. Williams, professor of Economics at GMU. Williams was one of the best thinkers and commentators in the business. A great mind and a clear, succinct writer.

Historical Ignorance of Confederate Generals, 7/22/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/72310-historical-ignorance-and-confederate-generals-2020-07-22>

Abraham Lincoln, 2/20/13

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/16820-abraham-lincoln-2013-02-20>

Insults to Black History, 6/24/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/71596-insults-to-black-history-2020-06-24>

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Nonsense, 9/2/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/73106-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-nonsense-2020-09-02>

Please review the links above and see if you don't think that the task force would benefit from this additional information. Having heard Dr. Tarter's views, I think they would appreciate it. Please forward to each member.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 1:47 PM
To: Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; Kristi Dooley; 'Juliette R Shedd'
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn,

Sorry for the delay. Yes, I am very happy that the TF has decided to mail post cards to County residences. That's good. And I compliment you and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the "Highway Overviews" which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the "overview info" should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

Also, on the "Overview" sheet, under "Highway Overviews," in the next line, after each highway's name, I suggest adding the words "How this highway got its name." That will make it clear what the "Overview" is about.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

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From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 10:13 AM
To: edtw
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

I believe we addressed this last evening during our sub committee meeting. Please let me know if you have any additional concerns around the USPS item.

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 7, 2021, at 9:33 AM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Mr. Watson,

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Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:14 AM

To: 'Watson, Malcolm'

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

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voters. No thirty individuals on a “task force” should decide for 1.2 million residents, and no BOS should arbitrarily change those names without voter agreement.

Thank you,
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From: Watson, Malcolm

Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM

To: Spain, Evelyn

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group Chair Spain and others, In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7, attached are the meeting minutes for your review and comment. Thanks in advance. Please let me know if I have missed something or misrepresented any topics discussed at the meeting.

Malcolm Watson



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

Subject: FW: Comments on Renaming Lee Highway | Confederate Names Task Force

From: S Chandra

Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 5:33 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force <DOTConfederateNamesTaskForce@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Subject: Comments on Renaming Lee Highway | Confederate Names Task Force

Dear Task Force Members,

With regards to the review of names of Lee Highway (U.S. Route 29) and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (U.S. Route 50), I would like to bring following information to your notice:

a) Although Robert E. Lee was a confederate general, after the civil war he played a crucial role in restoring peace [1]. He was advised and encouraged to not surrender and continue the fight in a gorilla war manner. He was very much capable and resourceful to do it but at that moment he thought like an American and decided not to continue the fight keeping America above all. In the words of Jay Winik, the famous historian and author - "by this one momentous decision, he spared the country from the divisive guerilla warfare that surely would have followed." [2]

It was the decision by political leaders of that era that started the civil war. Robert E. Lee was only following orders. But when his turn came to make a key decision, he decided in favor of America.

b) After the civil war, he advised a confederate widow who was full of animosity towards North to rise above any sectional feeling and raise the kids as Americans. As quoted by Edward Lee Childe in his book *The Life and Campaigns of General Lee (1875)*, p. 331, Lee told the widow "Madam, don't bring up your sons to detest the United States Government. Recollect that we form but one country, now. Abandon all these local animosities, and make your sons Americans." [3]

c) According to Emory Thomas, a renowned History Professor Emeritus at the University of Georgia and noted scholar of the American Civil War Robert E. Lee played an instrumental role in the Mexican-American war (1846-1848) which resulted in the Westward expansion of the United States.[4]

The civil war and the cause behind it is a blot in American history. Yet by focusing on only one aspect of Robert E. Lee (General of the Confederate Army) and ignoring his other important contributions to America during pre and post civil war period, we may be inadvertently showing the same intolerance and hatred which caused the civil war.

Sources:

1. <https://www.nps.gov/arho/learn/historyculture/lee-s-work-for-reunification.htm>
2. April 1865, Book by Jay Winik
3. *The Life and Campaigns of General Lee (1875)* by Edward Lee Childe, p. 331.
4. Thomas, Emory M. (1997). *Robert E. Lee*. W. W. Norton & Co. ISBN 978-0-393-31631-5.

Watson, Malcolm

From: Evelyn Spain
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:52 AM
To: Kristi Dooley
Cc: edtw Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; JulietteR Shedd
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

I agree with with everything stated in Kristi's email. I stand by the decisions that have been voted on by the members of CNTF Subcommittee, the deadline set by the BOS and confirm all CNTF subcommittee correspondence has been shared by Malcolm.

Thank you for sharing thoughts.

Chair Spain

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 10, 2021, at 8:58 PM, kristi dooley :

Hi Ed,

What the subgroup agreed to was the one page sheet that Blake and Shirley worked on and the that the subgroup approved (the Task Force purpose and historical context of the highway names) being at the beginning of the survey's online version, as well as on the front page of the paper version of the survey, as a handout at the public feedback meetings, and as information that will be placed on the web site as well. Since the postcard being sent countywide links all county residents to the web site where this information is already included, there was no other conversation about a need for any additional link. Anyone who goes to the link on the postcard will already find that information there. Hopefully that addresses your concerns.

With respect to the timing of the process, we are very clear with the Board's intent for the timeframe in which the work is to be completed, and we are proceeding accordingly, as we've shared with you. Please note that doesn't preclude you from voicing your own concerns to your Board member at any time.

To my knowledge, we have not received any other emails from Task Force members with additional information or requests since our last meeting on September 20 (other than a few emails coordinating aspects of the subgroup's work). I think Malcolm has sent out to the full Task Force your emails that have detailed your concerns about timing and any other content-related issues. Just wanted to put you at ease with respect to that. You aren't missing any other correspondence from other TF members because there hasn't been any.

Hope that's helpful. Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow night!

Best,
Kristi

From: <edtw

Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3:49 PM**To:** 'evelyn spain'

Cc: "'Watson, Malcolm'

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn,

There are a few problems here.

- 1) Did the sub-group quorum realize that the historical basis for the highway names *had no link* on the post card before they voted to accept it? I certainly did not. I have no notes of planners or facilitators calling attention to that fact, or of anyone noting it beforehand. Am I wrong? Perhaps others did and said nothing about it, but I myself did not realize that the post card lacked that information. I only noticed it when I returned home from the Oct. 7 meeting.
- 2) This process is being rushed along with much of the work being done behind the scenes. The prepared material is then brought forth at our meetings with little time for the rest of us to think about what we are looking at, or, if there are other factors that should be considered.
- 3) Yes, I have raised questions about the time-line before, and have noted the lack of interest in extending the time period. Perhaps TF organizers are not permitted to push back against the BOS. Indeed this process is like a freight train going down the track, and no delays are permitted.
- 4) Among the meeting materials for Monday Oct. 11 (sent late Friday, Oct. 8) I find no attachment containing the e-mails and messages exchanged between members, staff, and facilitators since our last full meeting on September 20. That's a three week stretch in which TF members remain uninformed and out of the loop on important points raised between myself and the Chair, organizers, and facilitators. Where are those messages? Will the other TF members see them? And where are their messages? I assume that I am not the only one with points to make, and that others are having input too. I'd appreciate knowing their views as well.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: evelyn spain

Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:21 AM

To: edtw

Cc:

Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

Thank you for your feedback. The website will contain the “ Overview” link. This will allow the reader to click on the link and go directly to the overview information. Please note the quorum of subcommittee members voted on accepting the postcard as it currently stands.

We have addressed the timeline concerns numerous times, both in the CNTF meetings and with the BOS. Our commitment to meeting the deadline as stated in the initial scope remains the same.

Best,

Evelyn

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 8:53 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Yes, good evening Evelyn,

It took me a while to realize that the card did not include a link to background on the highway names. When the post card was first presented on Sept. 28, the task force did not intend it to be mailed to all residences. I then raised the issue about excluding voters and taxpayers. Now that it will be mailed to all residences (as per last night), the reasons for including the “Highway Overviews” are critical for informed decision making. Surely there is space on the card for another line with a link. That time is short is understood. However, my suggestion that the task force inform the BOS that their deadline should be extended was deemed not possible. Why, I don’t know. Sometimes plans have to be changed.

I do know that the BOS wants this business wrapped up asap so they can take their vote. But the pace at which the process is moving is almost dizzying. I have a blitz of paper here and TF staff and facilitators are working overtime to produce more. Frankly, I think it would be prudent to slow down the train and give us time to think things through—like what should go on the postcards—not hasten the train onward with safety checks not made. We need time to think and consider, and not be rushed to the finish line.

Thank you for your patience on this important matter,
Ed Wenzel

PS The “Overview” link should not only be on the post cards, but on the web site as well.

From: Spain, Evelyn

Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 7:36 PM

To: [edtw](#)

Cc:

Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Evening Ed,

Thank you so much for the compliment.

I don't recall that the postcard was ever going to include a link to the "Highway Overviews". Understanding how strongly you feel that this information needs to be shared with the public, you can ask if its' possible to put it on the website provided the Task Force agrees. Please remember, we are up against a tight deadline and it was strongly stated that changes unless it's a grave error, can not be made at this late stage.

By all means please feel free to share your concerns during the meeting on Monday. Please also let the group know you are happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Dr Shedd and I rode by there Thursday night on the way home from our meeting.

Thank you for offering.

Best,

Chair Spain

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On Oct 8, 2021, at 1:46 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Good afternoon Evelyn,
Sorry for the delay. Yes, I am very happy that the TF has decided to mail post cards to County residences. That's good. And I compliment you

and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the "Highway Overviews" which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the "overview info" should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

Also, on the "Overview" sheet, under "Highway Overviews," in the next line, after each highway's name, I suggest adding the words "How this highway got its name." That will make it clear what the "Overview" is about.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS My concerns remain about the BOS motivation on these names. We all know what they did last year (which in my view was absolutely disgraceful), and what they want recommended on these names. I hope and pray that the uniqueness of Fairfax County's Civil War heritage is not further erased by guilt and politics-driven wokeness. Every locality has a "sense of place" and the Civil War put a massive stamp on Fairfax County. It is our history and it should not be subjected to cultural cleansing. As I said last night, I would happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park for anyone who might be interested.

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Thank you,

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To: 'Watson, Malcolm

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public

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To: Spain, Evelyn

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public

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This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

From: evelyn spain
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:21
To: Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; Kristi Dooley; Juliette R Shedd
Cc: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group
Subject:

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Malcolm Watson

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 10:36 AM
To: Watson, Malcolm
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for sending the FOIA and meeting links. I have tried to view them but cannot get audio on the Ch 16 video at the 31 minute mark. The video begins with audio, but when I move to 31 minutes, all I get is a circle rotating in the center of the screen with no audio or video motion. Also, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act video does the same thing and it's a 3 hour video. No advancing forward in the video if you knew where to go, which I don't. I don't have the time to watch either video from the beginning. Doesn't anyone know the answer to my question without viewing the video? Isn't there a printed document with table of contents and index that can be forwarded?

Thanks,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 4:14 PM
To: edtw
Cc:
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Wenzel,

Thank you for following up. Regarding your questions about communication guidelines, I've provided the link to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act training video. I've also provided the link to the Confederate Names Task Force website, where you can view the meeting recorded on August 16. At that meeting, Louis Nuzzo, Assistant County Attorney with the Office of the County Attorney for Fairfax County provided the Task Force with an overview of Virginia Freedom of Information Act regulations beginning at the 31 minute mark.

- Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA) training video: https://www.ebmcdn.net/fairfax/fairfax-cable-viewer-cc-r-embed.php?viewnode=2020_VFOIA_cc
- [Confederate Names Task Force | Transportation \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

Thanks again, and please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have additional questions.

Malcolm

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Watson, Malcolm
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

I have a question. We are not supposed to talk/email with more than one TF member at a time to avoid creating a "meeting." But we can e-mail one member and then separately forward that e-mail to another member; or perhaps send to four or five other members if done one by one. That kind of defeats the purpose of the rule, no? Also, while I can't discuss TF business with more than one member at a time, I can discuss my thoughts on the subject, or send comments, to non-Task Force people or friends, correct? Can you please send me a link to the Virginia guidelines/ requirements that govern here?

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 11:56 AM
To:
Subject: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good morning,

Thank you for volunteering for the Public Engagement Sub-Group of the Confederate Names Task Force. If possible, the group should meet twice before the next Task Force meeting, which is scheduled for October 11. Can you please let me know if you're available to meet in person on either Tuesday or Thursday evenings during the weeks of September 27 and October 4?

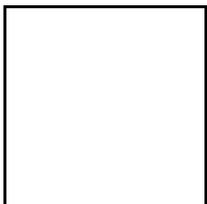
- Week of September 27: Tuesday 9/28 or Thursday 9/30
- Week of October 4: Tuesday 10/5 or Thursday 10/7

Can you please respond with your availability by tomorrow (Thursday) at 12 PM? We will pass along the meeting details thereafter.

Thank you again, and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Malcolm Watson

Transportation Planner



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:58 PM
To: Watson, Malcolm
Subject: Confederate Names TF. 9/20 meeting

Mr. Watson,

I'm not sure what happened last night with the muted phone connection. My phone was on talk but I was not being heard. I tried to speak during the 4th segment but had to hang up and call you to look into the problem. I then dialed back and got through and made my remarks. I suppose a switch was off somewhere?

I don't believe this TF process is going to work. From the "road map" or schedule, it looks like the path has already been mapped out to lead to a name change. That's what Jeff McKay wants and he is on public record saying so, as is our TF Chair. One TF member said he was under the impression that the only reason for the TF was to change the names, and his impression is valid given supervisors' statements and media reports.

From my correspondence and experience with four supervisors—name changes are what they want. Of course, the BOS can request that the Commonwealth Transportation Board change the names without any recommendation from anyone. My take is that the BOS wants the task force for political cover to help them deflect criticism. That is my view and I believe it is correct.

As for the "Community Engagement Plans" and working with district supervisors to plan "Community briefings," whatever material is assembled for one district must be the same for all districts. And the information must be correct, not false narratives. Last night we heard again that Gen. Lee was a "traitor" who fought to "overthrow the U.S. Government." The facilitator said nothing because she probably didn't know. That narrative about Lee is completely false but it is deeply ingrained in a lot of people who absolutely believe it because they don't understand what really happened. Misinformation cannot be presented as fact to community groups.

Historical Ignorance of Confederate Generals, 7/22/20 <https://patriotpost.us/opinion/72310-historical-ignorance-and-confederate-generals-2020-07-22>

Abraham Lincoln, 2/20/13 <https://patriotpost.us/opinion/16820-abraham-lincoln-2013-02-20>

Regarding name changes or not, it was said that we should do "what the community wants" and defer to the "community's wishes." Note that "the community" does not mean "the voters." Whatever outreach we do is going to exclude hundreds of thousands of Fairfax County voters. A voter referendum is the only way to know public sentiment on this historical name issue. Someone said a referendum was "inappropriate." But why? If the BOS wants to change the names of two primary highways that have been named for a hundred years, why shouldn't voters have a say? The question should be on the ballot. Perhaps the voters are not trusted? It's a fundamental issue of fairness. The TF should recommend a ballot referendum to the BOS. That would take the onus off the TF and the people who really matter would decide. We are only 30 people being asked to decide for 1.2 million Fairfax residents. That's not fair by anyone's standard.

Much was said about being "Welcoming" and "Inclusive," inferring that we can't be if the highway names don't change. That's nonsense. Immigrants are pouring into the County every day and they know zero about the American Civil War. Lee, Jackson, Stuart and Mosby mean nothing to them. They are historical American

To my fellow Fairfax patriots on the Confederate Names Task Force,

Friends, I am sending you this letter so my voice may be heard amongst the many concerns expressed during the September 20th meeting. I am confident each of you is a patriotic citizen, and I am sincere in my conclusion each of you wants what is best for Fairfax County and your community. A little about me, I am native Southern white male from a blended race family. Growing up, we opened our home to African exchange students, all of whom I'm still friends with today, and this experience fundamentally shaped my world view. I'm a civilian staff officer for the Headquarters Dept. of the Army, and I fundamentally believe all people are created equal and racism has no place anywhere in the United States.

I agreed to participate on this Task Force because I have pragmatic concerns about changing street names and the unintended consequences to the communities impacted. Based on the data available to us, how do we know if there will be second or third order negative impacts? If even one human life (black, white, or other) is harmed because the GPS in a 911 dispatch hasn't updated, and can't find an accident site on formerly Lee-Jackson HWY, is this worth it? I don't know if this is a problem or not. These are data points we're missing.

Yesterday, when I attempted to raise these concerns, I was silenced abruptly, told “this is not in our purview,” and my concerns were not heard. – THIS WAS WRONG.

Week one, we universally agreed we wanted to be heard. The September 20th meeting discouraged me, and is therefore the reason I am sending you this letter. Months ago, I voiced similar concerns about cost, public safety, and impact to local businesses to Supervisor Walkinshaw, and he invited me to join the task force specifically to provide this perspective (see enclosed email).

I'm concerned how much this will cost because I don't want my taxes to go up at a time when we've all felt inflation and economic strain during the pandemic. This expense was not earmarked in the 2022 budget, and I have genuine concerns about fiscal transparency within the Fairfax County government. I also have honest concerns about the impact on local businesses and residents on both roadways. This will cost them money. Rebranding websites, updating address, and “Lee Highway” is written on shipping orders all over the place. At a time when businesses are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, is this really a good move? What will be the impact to 911 dispatchers? Road names have been changed in Fairfax County before (e.g. Jefferson Davis Highway), and I believe these answers exist and would provide valuable data points for us to make an informed decision whether or not to recommend changing anything to the Board of Supervisors.

At risk of providing too much in one letter, I also want to offer some perspective why Southerners often still see Robert E. Lee as an icon. The institution of slavery was so evil, and the thought of dividing the United States so heinous that Southerners who sacrificed so much—economic ruin and more than ¼ of the male population dead—were desperate for something to be proud of. Placing aside the politics around the war, Generals Lee and Jackson were tactically brilliant and military academies around the world still study their campaigns today. Furthermore, Lee's post-war example made him one of the most important figures in

reunification of the Nation. Many Southerners wanted to continue to fight a gorilla war for years, but he refused, and many followed his example to return to the Union. After the war, Lee also used his influence to encourage peace between the races, expelling white students from Washington College for harassing black citizens of Lexington. To underscore the roll Lee played in reunification of the Nation, in the book *Crucible of Command*, biographer William C. Davis (who is not a Lost Cause proponent) references a movement in New York and Pennsylvania to encourage Ulysses Grant to run for President with Lee as his Vice-Presidential running mate.

Consider also what the Virginia Museum of History & Culture says: “Those who argue that he chose to fight for slavery rather than against it, and that this is all one needs to know about Lee, lose sight of the extent of the sacrifice that he made. His decision was not about defending slavery; it was about doing what he thought was right.”

<https://virginiahistory.org/learn/historical-book/chapter/reconciliation>

You do not have to agree with any of this interpretation of history, but Fairfax County cannot fundamentally be an “Inclusive” society without acknowledging these types of opinions and that there are residents who feel this way. To be very clear, I am referring to honest residents with a different interpretation of history who simultaneously respect the rights of all mankind. I don’t really care about the feelings of racial supremacists because their ignorance negates any reasonably public consideration.

Inclusivity requires us to make room for people of all races, genders, sexual orientations, political leanings, and those who have a different historic or cultural background to our own. Fairfax County’s mantra should be to build new monuments and name new streets to represent everyone, and not to destroy or rename; these actions are divisive and exclude citizens who feel their opinions are not valued. Add more, not less.

It is not my intention to upset anyone, and I’m not an argumentative or heartless person. I love all people, I love my community, and I would not participate in this Task Force were I not convinced of its genuinely good-hearted value. God Bless all of you, and thank you for receiving my thoughts.

Very respectfully,

Robert H. Floyd

Enclosure

From: BraddockBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov,
To: roberthfloyd@aol.com,
Cc: Sally.Kidalov@fairfaxcounty.gov, Frank.Anderson@fairfaxcounty.gov,
Subject: Task Force on Lee Highway and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway
Date: Mon, Mar 1, 2021 5:43 pm

Hello Mr. Floyd,

Hope you're doing well. I'm reaching out because of your interest in the Confederate Names inventory and the county's process for considering the renaming of such sites. As you may be aware, the Board of Supervisors is putting together a task force to discuss the two major roadways identified, Lee Highway and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. As Braddock is one of the districts through which these roads run, we are appointing individuals to the task force. This group will be charged with developing an outreach process for engaging the community, receiving input on whether to change the names, and potentially considering alternate names. If the task force recommends changing the names, it will suggest a short list of names to be incorporated into a community survey. Following this, the Board of Supervisors would hold one or more public hearings and then consider whether it wants to keep the road names the same or change them.

While we can't predict the outcome, I think it is likely that the majority of this task force will be in support of changing the names. That may or may not be your position but based on your interest and the respectable conversations we've had, Supervisor Walkinshaw thought your perspective would be valuable.

If you'd like to participate, please let us know. The time commitment would be roughly one virtual meeting per month for a span of three to six months.

Thanks,

Frank Anderson

Watson, Malcolm

From: Evelyn Spain
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:52 AM
To:
Cc: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Subject:

Morning Ed,

I agree with with everything stated in Kristi's email. I stand by the decisions that have been voted on by the members of CNTF Subcommittee, the deadline set by the BOS and confirm all CNTF subcommittee correspondence has been shared by Malcolm.

Thank you for sharing thoughts.

Chair Spain

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 10, 2021, at 8:58 PM, kristi dooley> wrote:

Hi Ed,

What the subgroup agreed to was the one page sheet that Blake and Shirley worked on and the that the subgroup approved (the Task Force purpose and historical context of the highway names) being at the beginning of the survey's online version, as well as on the front page of the paper version of the survey, as a handout at the public feedback meetings, and as information that will be placed on the web site as well. Since the postcard being sent countywide links all county residents to the web site where this information is already included, there was no other conversation about a need for any additional link. Anyone who goes to the link on the postcard will already find that information there. Hopefully that addresses your concerns.

With respect to the timing of the process, we are very clear with the Board's intent for the timeframe in which the work is to be completed, and we are proceeding accordingly, as we've shared with you. Please note that doesn't preclude you from voicing your own concerns to your Board member at any time.

To my knowledge, we have not received any other emails from Task Force members with additional information or requests since our last meeting on September 20 (other than a few emails coordinating aspects of the subgroup's work). I think Malcolm has sent out to the full Task Force your emails that have detailed your concerns about timing and any other content-related issues. Just wanted to put you at ease with respect to that. You aren't missing any other correspondence from other TF members because there hasn't been any.

Hope that's helpful. Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow night!

Best,
Kristi

From: <edtw
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3:49 PM
To: 'evelyn spain'
Cc:
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn,

There are a few problems here.

- 1) Did the sub-group quorum realize that the historical basis for the highway names *had no link* on the post card before they voted to accept it? I certainly did not. I have no notes of planners or facilitators calling attention to that fact, or of anyone noting it beforehand. Am I wrong? Perhaps others did and said nothing about it, but I myself did not realize that the post card lacked that information. I only noticed it when I returned home from the Oct. 7 meeting.
- 2) This process is being rushed along with much of the work being done behind the scenes. The prepared material is then brought forth at our meetings with little time for the rest of us to think about what we are looking at, or, if there are other factors that should be considered.
- 3) Yes, I have raised questions about the time-line before, and have noted the lack of interest in extending the time period. Perhaps TF organizers are not permitted to push back against the BOS. Indeed this process is like a freight train going down the track, and no delays are permitted.
- 4) Among the meeting materials for Monday Oct. 11 (sent late Friday, Oct. 8) I find no attachment containing the e-mails and messages exchanged between members, staff, and facilitators since our last full meeting on September 20. That's a three week stretch in which TF members remain uninformed and out of the loop on important points raised between myself and the Chair, organizers, and facilitators. Where are those messages? Will the other TF members see them? And where are their messages? I assume that I am not the only one with points to make, and that others are having input too. I'd appreciate knowing their views as well.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: evelyn spain
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:21 AM
To: edtw
Cc:
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

Thank you for your feedback. The website will contain the “ Overview” link. This will allow the reader to click on the link and go directly to the overview information. Please note the quorum of subcommittee members voted on accepting the postcard as it currently stands.

We have addressed the timeline concerns numerous times, both in the CNTF meetings and with the BOS. Our commitment to meeting the deadline as stated in the initial scope remains the same.

Best,

Evelyn

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 8:53 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Yes, good evening Evelyn,

It took me a while to realize that the card did not include a link to background on the highway names. When the post card was first presented on Sept. 28, the task force did not intend it to be mailed to all residences. I then raised the issue about excluding voters and taxpayers. Now that it will be mailed to all residences (as per last night), the reasons for including the “Highway Overviews” are critical for informed decision making. Surely there is space on the card for another line with a link. That time is short is understood. However, my suggestion that the task force inform the BOS that their deadline should be extended was deemed not possible. Why, I don’t know. Sometimes plans have to be changed.

I do know that the BOS wants this business wrapped up asap so they can take their vote. But the pace at which the process is moving is almost dizzying. I have a blitz of paper here and TF staff and facilitators are working overtime to produce more. Frankly, I think it would be prudent to slow down the train and give us time to think things through—like what should go on the postcards—not hasten the train onward with safety checks not made. We need time to think and consider, and not be rushed to the finish line.

Thank you for your patience on this important matter,
Ed Wenzel

PS The “Overview” link should not only be on the post cards, but on the web site as well.

From: Spain, Evelyn

Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 7:36 PM

To: [edtw](#)

Cc:

Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Evening Ed,

Thank you so much for the compliment.

I don't recall that the postcard was ever going to include a link to the "Highway Overviews". Understanding how strongly you feel that this information needs to be shared with the public, you can ask if its' possible to put it on the website provided the Task Force agrees. Please remember, we are up against a tight deadline and it was strongly stated that changes unless it's a grave error, can not be made at this late stage.

By all means please feel free to share your concerns during the meeting on Monday. Please also let the group know you are happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Dr Shedd and I rode by there Thursday night on the way home from our meeting.

Thank you for offering.

Best,

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 1:46 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Good afternoon Evelyn,
Sorry for the delay. Yes, I am very happy that the TF has decided to mail post cards to County residences. That's good. And I compliment you

and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the “Highway Overviews” which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the “overview info” should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

Also, on the “Overview” sheet, under “Highway Overviews,” in the next line, after each highway’s name, I suggest adding the words “How this highway got its name.” That will make it clear what the “Overview” is about.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS My concerns remain about the BOS motivation on these names. We all know what they did last year (which in my view was absolutely disgraceful), and what they want recommended on these names. I hope and pray that the uniqueness of Fairfax County’s Civil War heritage is not further erased by guilt and politics-driven wokeness. Every locality has a “sense of place” and the Civil War put a massive stamp on Fairfax County. It is our history and it should not be subjected to cultural cleansing. As I said last night, I would happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park for anyone who might be interested.

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 10:13 AM
To: [edtw](#)
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

I believe we addressed this last evening during our sub committee meeting. Please let me know if you have any additional concerns around the USPS item.

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 7, 2021, at 9:33 AM, [edtw](#)
wrote:

Mr. Watson,

I received no reply yesterday to my query about the Sub-Group minutes not containing an important point of information: That the Task Force *will not utilize* the USPS to provide information to all Fairfax County households regarding changing the highway names. Instead, other selective means will be used for sampling purposes, but nothing will be targeted at the voters/taxpayers. The minutes should reflect that the Task Force will not use the USPS to contact voters on this important matter.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:14 AM
To: 'Watson, Malcolm'
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public
Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for forwarding the minutes of the Sub-Group meeting last week. I noticed there is one point missing from those minutes: I believe I asked whether the public survey would be mailed to all households in Fairfax County (via USPS) in order to give all voters and taxpayers the opportunity to respond to the proposed highway name changes. I noted that the response to this question was negative and that other means of communication were planned such as Supervisor's on-line newsletters, mailouts of postcards to the business community nearest the highways, County websites, chambers of commerce, social media (someone said millennials get their information there), "hashtags," and probably other means which I have forgotten. In any event, those means of outreach are limited and do not include the vast majority of Fairfax citizens.

I firmly believe that Fairfax voters and taxpayers should decide this name issue on a ballot referendum. That's the only "fair" way to decide whether or not to change the names of two primary highways that have existed here for 100 years— names that reflect the Civil War heritage of Fairfax County and make us unique in the Washington area. I've raised this issue several times before but no one seems interested in the logic of it. I think I understand why. The BOS does not want voters weighing in because they might reject the costly and ideologically driven agenda and cast their votes to keep the existing names. And the BOS wants those names and history erased. So no referendum, and they appoint a task force guided by paid contract facilitators to steer us toward name changes. For the BOS, that's much easier to accomplish than convincing hundreds of thousands of taxpayers and voters to agree with their anti-heritage and anti-Civil War name hysteria.

I strongly urge the task force to halt the planned path we are on and inform the BOS that in fairness to all the people of Fairfax, they should call a voter referendum to decide this issue. Any other device that's used to effect name changes is merely a way of avoiding the common sense and wisdom of the voters. No thirty individuals on a "task force" should decide for 1.2 million residents, and no BOS should arbitrarily change those names without voter agreement.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm<
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM

To: Spain, Evelyn

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public

Engagement Sub-Group Chair Spain and others, In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7, attached are the meeting minutes for your review and comment. Thanks in advance. Please let me know if I have missed something or misrepresented any topics discussed at the meeting.

Malcolm Watson



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Watson, Malcolm; Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Kristi Dooley; Dominguez, Noelle C.; Nissinen, Anna; Geiger, Robin; 'Juliette R Shedd'
Subject: RE: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Thank you, Mr. Watson, for forwarding the messages below. I hope these and other member's messages will be provided to the rest of the Task Force well before the next regular meeting. I await seeing the comments of other TF members..

Thank you, sir.
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 3:30 PM
To: edtw; Spain, Evelyn
Cc:
Subject: RE: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Good afternoon Chair Spain and Mr. Wenzel, Thank you both for following up. It is our sincere intention to remain as transparent as possible as we move through this process. Regarding Mr. Wenzel's email sent to Ms. Dooley on September 14, please refer to the attached document, which compiles the email and text messages we received prior to the meeting on September 20. Mr. Wenzel's email begins on page five and concludes with links directing people to additional information on Lee Highway and supplementary material by Walter Williams on page seven.

Thanks again,
Malcolm Watson
Transportation Planner

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Kristi Dooley
Subject: RE: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Good morning, Ms. Spain,

Thank you for following up on this matter. I have two comments:

One: The BOS is on public record with its opinion and with actions already taken—that Confederate names and memorials are "offensive" and should be changed or removed. I'm sure that the Task Force organizers and facilitators

know this and are steering the Task Force to that end. Facilitator statements made at the subgroup meeting last week confirm this.

Two: In regard to the exclusion of Fairfax Voters from deciding the fate of the names, why is that “out of our scope?” Is our task force not permitted to question the BOS? Is the issue of fairness regarding these names not our concern? Task Force members were led through DEI at our very first meeting, so “fairness” must rate very high with Task Force organizers and facilitators.

I would ask the Chair to stand for fairness, and to go back to the BOS with a strong recommendation that the voters and tax payers of Fairfax County are the ones who ought to decide whether the names of Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway should be changed. The BOS is already on public record with their intolerance and bigotry regarding Confederate names and associations in Fairfax County. Why would this Task Force bow to supervisors who have displayed so much animosity already?

“A country that forgets its past has no future.” Churchill.

Ed Wenzel

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 8:54 AM
To: [edtw](#); Watson, Malcolm
Cc: Kristi Dooley
Subject: Re: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Morning Mr. Wenzel,

I believe the September 14th email was sent out but I am following up with Mr Watson right after I send you this email. I do appreciate your passion and commitment to ensuring the Confederate Names Task Force and as stated earlier, the BOS will accept whatever recommendation we bring to the December 2021 board meeting. In my mind that means they have an open mind and will consider all options.

We will ensure as a unified group that we vote on whatever message the Confederate Names Task Force agrees upon before bringing it to the BOS and public engagement activities. As far as allowing the constituents of Fairfax to vote on this matter , it has already been discussed that this is out of our scope and has been put to rest.

Let me reiterate, moving forward I will ensure we vote on every item, concern, or suggestion made within the CNTF sub committee and full membership groups. This will so ensure have a documented record of decisions made as we move forward.

I have spoken with Mr.Watson and advised him to please share this email chain with the rest of the CNTF.

Thank you,

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 1, 2021, at 6:28 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Ms. Evelyn Spain, Chair,
Confederate Names Task Force

Dear Ms. Spain,

I regret having to bother you again, but you should know that my Sept. 14th e-mail which addressed Lee Highway and other related matters, still has not been disseminated to Task Force members. [See e-mails below and especially the subject e-mail at the bottom.] How are we to communicate information to other members if our messages are held for weeks before being released only days before the next meeting? This severely handicaps TF members and prevents critical information from being disseminated in a timely fashion. Please see what's holding up distribution of my e-mail which contains six links to the history of Lee Highway and Gen. R.E. Lee, and four links to columns by Walter E. Washington that are relevant to this matter. TF members should have seen this information long ago.

In regard to the Sept. 28 subgroup meeting, there were two statements made by the facilitators that I found disturbing. First, that the mission of this task force is "not to educate," and secondly, that they want us to "move away from the past and toward the future." "What do we want today?" as one asked. Those statements confirm what has been obvious to me since the beginning—that Task Force organizers and facilitators are there to lead this group in the direction of name changes. I have commented before that the BOS wants these highway names changed, just as they do any name or memorial that reflects or acknowledges Confederate heritage in this county. We have been assured at our meetings that the BOS has made no decisions about the highway names, but that's not believable. Supervisor's statements, past actions, correspondence, media coverage, and TF documents are clear about what the BOS wants. I believe that this Task Force was conceived to provide political cover for a decision that has already been made and that's why we are being led "away from the past (Civil War heritage) and toward the future"—whatever that means. However, we can be assured that the BOS' vision for Fairfax does not include reminders of the Civil War, especially any Confederate reminders.

At our first meeting in August, we heard a lecture about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion—the message being (I suppose) that there is something wrong with names that reflect our Civil War past, at least in the minds of some. I have commented that "diversity" means a multiplicity, a variety, more than one, etc. Yet, in this case, the BOS seeks to erase diversity, just as they did with the perfectly fine Marr monument which stood beside the street where the first action of the war occurred. Why? Because *Marr was a Confederate*, period. I call that bigotry and intolerance. That monument wasn't even "to" Capt. Marr. The inscription only gave a bearing and distance to where his body was found—the first Confederate to die in action in the war. Nothing else. The removal of that landmark monument and the two cannon was a disgraceful gesture to "wokeness" that robbed Fairfax County and Fairfax City of a 116-year-old historical monument and an important remembrance of Civil War heritage in Fairfax.

I support the diverse groups who populate Fairfax County today, as does everyone else I know. However, as a native of this area, I am conscious of the Confederate history in a county that voted overwhelmingly for secession. I am also well acquainted with the two monuments to Union Generals Kearny and Stevens who were killed in the Battle of Ox Hill near Rt. 50. No one has suggested that those two monuments be removed or be hidden in a warehouse, or be "contextualized." The fact that Union monuments exist at all in this county, is a tribute to John Ballard, a former Confederate cavalryman (of Mosby's command) who owned the farm where the battle was fought. It was Ballard and his wife, Mary, who gave the land to Union soldiers so they could erect monuments to their fallen generals. And it was Ballard who led the effort to put up the monument beside Main Street in Fairfax

marking Marr's death in the first action of the war (Fairfax C. H. Raid, June 1, 1861). While Fairfax County brags that we are the "Gateway to America's Heritage," the current BOS has proven that they only care about certain heritage, and have been quick to dismiss and condemn Confederate heritage for which, except for slavery, they show zero understanding.

I am for everyone's heritage. If names or reminders are needed to reflect other heritage in Fairfax, I think you will find interested parties in local groups, including myself, who would look favorably on such an endeavor. Reminders of people who were enslaved on farms in the county, or their descendants who accomplished so much during the Jim Crow era would certainly be worthy of recognition. We do have a "diverse" heritage here and it covers a broad spectrum. That said, the Civil War dominates the history of Virginia and of Fairfax, and it was the defining event in the history of America. The death toll was staggering. With a population of only 31 million people in both the north and south, 750,000 perished (including civilians).

The names Lee highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway in Fairfax are an important part of our Civil War heritage. They give Fairfax a sense of place in northern Virginia where so much of the war occurred, and they distinguish us from other counties in the Washington area. Fairfax is the place where Lee and Jackson brought the war to the doorstep of Washington, when only 90 days before, the Federal army was at the gates of Richmond. Such was the tactical genius of Lee and Jackson (and Longstreet), that in three months' time they were able to defeat two Union armies and transfer the war from Richmond to Fairfax County (Ox Hill) in the shadow of the Union capitol dome. Lee and Jackson were Virginia heroes and are forever linked in Confederate memory. Even foes and military officers abroad praised their military tactics and what they accomplished with inferior numbers. No matter their human faults, Lee and Jackson will always command respect as American military leaders of the highest caliber.

I have also commented that "inclusion," as in DEI, is not what this TF is about. The Confederate Names Task Force is actually about "exclusion." The Task Force, despite its planned "community engagement" with post cards, social media, websites, hash tags, chambers of commerce, and other such targets, will come up short and will exclude hundreds of thousands of Fairfax voters from having any say in whether or not these century-old highway names are removed. I have mentioned twice before that no 30 hand-picked people, nor the BOS itself, should have any right to change the names of primary highways without a voter referendum. To be "fair"—as I'm certain we all believe we are—Fairfax voters should be included in any decision of this magnitude. But, perhaps the BOS does not trust the voters to make the "correct" decision? I think any plan that excludes a referendum is designed to usher name changes through the bureaucratic system before anyone can stop it. And that's why the BOS will not rescind its artificial December deadline.

On a final note, the History Commission report has been praised as the last word on Confederate names. However, there are some errors and distortions in that document and the TF should be careful what it cites.

I hope you can disseminate my Sept. 14th e-mail before any more time passes. (See bottom of this thread.) Also, please make sure that this e-mail is forwarded to members as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 11:07 AM

To: 'Watson, Malcolm'
Cc: 'Spain, Evelyn' ; 'Kristi Dooley'
Subject: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14

Mr. Watson,

Concerning the missing e-mail (below, Sept. 14) that was not included in the packet sent out prior to our Sept. 20 meeting—when do you anticipate that TF members will see it? Waiting until a few days before the next meeting (Oct. 11) is not good. That e-mail information (including 10 relevant links) should have been seen and read prior to the last regular meeting. It was unfortunate that it was not in the packet. The sooner that members receive it the better.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 3:06 PM
To: 'Spain, Evelyn'
Subject: RE:

Thanks you, Ms. Spain. Looking forward to tonight's meeting.

Regards,
Ed Wenzel

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2021 7:03 PM
To: [edtw](#)
Cc: Watson, Malcolm; Kristi Dooley

Subject: Re:

Dear Mr. Wendell,

Thank you for notifying us that one of your emails is missing. I will check in with Malcom first thing Monday morning to ensure he sends out your Sept 14th email. Please be assured that it is our intention to remain transparent throughout the Confederate Names Task Force process.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Sep 18, 2021, at 2:17 PM, [edtw](#) wrote:

Ms. Evelyn Spain,
Chair, Confederate Names Task Force

Dear Ms. Spain,

I want to call your attention to the e-mails I sent to Ms. Dooley this past week (Sept. 14 and 16) relative to the topics being considered by the TF. In the Messages and Tweets attachment received from Mr. Watson yesterday, I noticed that my Sept. 14 message is missing. That e-mail concerned the meeting last Monday (Sept. 13) and included five links to important Lee Highway information, four links to pertinent columns by Walter E. Williams, and a link to a book review and comments on the Letters and Recollections of R.E. Lee as published by his son in 1904.

The Lee Highway information is critical for TF understanding of why the road was so named, and Walter Williams' columns throw light on Historical Ignorance, Abraham Lincoln, Black history/White Guilt, and DEI "Nonsense" as he terms it. In addition, I included the Lee material as necessary in view of the current narrative that he fought to destroy the U. S. Government, which is not true. Please see that my email of Sept 14 is provided to the TF for their scrutiny.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS I assume that Messages, Tweets, or other communications by TF members to staff will be published in the final report. Is that correct? I want to be certain that pertinent material and other concerns are not excluded from the published report, or from public knowledge. Thanks again.

From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 11:25 PM

To: 'Kristi Dooley'

Subject: Confederate Names and R.E. Lee, Recollections and Letters etc.

Hi Kristi,

At the meeting last night a number of statements were made, including by the guest speaker, that I took some exception to. The format of the meetings is such that one cannot unmute and interject. That would be discourteous to the person speaking. So one must wait, and one person should not monopolize time that has to be shared by all. Also, if I pick up on a point to make, that does not mean that I can formulate the words for a question or comment immediately. So even if I could interject a comment, the time for it passes. I guess I'm not so good at notetaking or articulating thoughts on the fly.

I also perceive that the planners of the agenda assume that most people generally do not know about Lost Cause efforts to minimize slavery, or the exalting of the war effort and the top generals. That may be true for some, but

for those who have studied the war, we have listened to countless lectures over the years and read about most aspects of CW history beyond the battles, i.e.: the legality of secession, state sovereignty and loyalty, Reconstruction, KKK violence, Jubal Early's cabal etc.

Following Reconstruction, white political corruption was (I believe) a direct reaction to the Radical Republicans and the Union Leagues who swarmed the region after the war and helped elect blacks to power at state and local levels—all to ensure a permanent black Republican political base while ex-Confederates were disenfranchised. When one considers Republican efforts to divide freedmen from former masters and whites, does it not throw some light on possible reasons for violence and black voting restrictions as whites corruptly regained power? As evil as it was, one has to look beyond the obvious. For every action, there is a reaction. If you turn a 240-year-old culture and way of life upside-down by force and destruction, and kill 750,000 people while you're at it, wouldn't you expect to encounter bitter resentment that might lead to bad consequences? Could it have been otherwise? Yes, I think it could have.

Below is a link to a "Goodreads" review of a republished *Recollections and Letters of General Robert E. Lee* by his youngest son, Capt. R.E. Lee Jr. in 1904. Be sure to read the entirety of readers comments afterward. I forward this link to counter the view that Lee was simply a "traitor" and a "slaveowner" who wanted to "destroy" the United States. I heard something similar said last night about Lee and Stonewall Jackson. It's the current media narrative which Dr. Tarter knows is not true. <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11061428-recollections-and-letters-of-general-robert-e-lee>

As I mentioned, **Lee Highway** was one of a hundred or more named "Auto Trails" that "good roads" organizations were advocating for in the early 20th century. The nation's roads at that time were little better than they were during the Civil War. The roads were muddy, rutted obstacles at the dawn of the automobile age. When Model T Fords appeared in 1908, they were designed to navigate these horrible roads, but it was obvious to businessmen and local boosters that improved roads were desperately needed. The Great War in Europe and a young army officer named Dwight Eisenhower also figured in the great American road story and the linking together of transcontinental routes under various names.

The links below provide historical context. I think it's obvious that the name "Lee Highway" did not arise from any Jim Crow intention to intimidate or insult black people, or to project "white supremacy." In reality, Lee's name was obvious for a Southern transcontinental route just as the Lincoln Highway was a shoo-in for a Northern route. Remember, this is the 50th Anniversary period and veterans of both sides are still living and Lee was a Southern hero. The background below on **Lee Highway** and the transcontinental road movement should have been a priority for task force agenda planners rather than One Fairfax, DEI, and Mr. Tarter's take on the Lost Cause and white superiority.

Lee Highway

<https://americanroads.us/autotrails/leehighway.html>

Dr. S.M. Johnson, A Dreamer of Dreams. FHA Highway History, The Lee Highway, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Lee Boulevard

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/johnson.cfm>

Zero Milestone in Washington D.C.

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/zero.cfm>

Photo Gallery Along Lee Highway (Mid-1920s)

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/johngal2.cfm>

Lee Highway, Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Highway

Added material:

The links below are columns by the late Walter E. Williams, professor of Economics at GMU. Williams was one of the best thinkers and commentators in the business. A great mind and a clear, succinct writer.

Historical Ignorance of Confederate Generals, 7/22/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/72310-historical-ignorance-and-confederate-generals-2020-07-22>

Abraham Lincoln, 2/20/13

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/16820-abraham-lincoln-2013-02-20>

Insults to Black History, 6/24/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/71596-insults-to-black-history-2020-06-24>

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Nonsense, 9/2/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/73106-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-nonsense-2020-09-02>

Please review the links above and see if you don't think that the task force would benefit from this additional information. Having heard Dr. Tarter's views, I think they would appreciate it. Please forward to each member.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 1:47 PM
To: Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; Kristi Dooley; 'Juliette R Shedd'
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn,

Sorry for the delay. Yes, I am very happy that the TF has decided to mail post cards to County residences. That's good. And I compliment you and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the "Highway Overviews" which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the "overview info" should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

Also, on the "Overview" sheet, under "Highway Overviews," in the next line, after each highway's name, I suggest adding the words "How this highway got its name." That will make it clear what the "Overview" is about.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS My concerns remain about the BOS motivation on these names. We all know what they did last year (which in my view was absolutely disgraceful), and what they want recommended on these names. I hope and pray that the uniqueness of Fairfax County's Civil War heritage is not further erased by guilt and politics-driven wokeness. Every locality has a "sense of place" and the Civil War put a massive stamp on Fairfax County. It is our history and it should not be subjected to cultural cleansing. As I said last night, I would happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park for anyone who might be interested.

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 10:13 AM
To: edtw
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

I believe we addressed this last evening during our sub committee meeting. Please let me know if you have any additional concerns around the USPS item.

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 7, 2021, at 9:33 AM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Mr. Watson,

I received no reply yesterday to my query about the Sub-Group minutes not containing an important point of information: That the Task Force *will not utilize* the USPS to provide information to all Fairfax County households regarding changing the highway names. Instead, other selective means will be used for sampling purposes, but nothing will be targeted at the voters/taxpayers. The minutes should reflect that the Task Force will not use the USPS to contact voters on this important matter.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:14 AM

To: 'Watson, Malcolm'

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for forwarding the minutes of the Sub-Group meeting last week. I noticed there is one point missing from those minutes: I believe I asked whether the public survey would be mailed to all households in Fairfax County (via USPS) in order to give all voters and taxpayers the opportunity to respond to the proposed highway name changes. I noted that the response to this question was negative and that other means of communication were planned such as Supervisor's on-line newsletters, mailouts of postcards to the business community nearest the highways, County websites, chambers of commerce, social media (someone said millennials get their information there), "hashtags," and probably other means which I have forgotten. In any event, those means of outreach are limited and do not include the vast majority of Fairfax citizens.

I firmly believe that Fairfax voters and taxpayers should decide this name issue on a ballot referendum. That's the only "fair" way to decide whether or not to change the names of two primary highways that have existed here for 100 years— names that reflect the Civil War heritage of Fairfax County and make us unique in the Washington area. I've raised this issue several times before but no one seems interested in the logic of it. I think I understand why. The BOS does not want voters weighing in because they might reject the costly and ideologically driven agenda and cast their votes to keep the existing names. And the BOS wants those names and history erased. So no referendum, and they appoint a task force guided by paid contract facilitators to steer us toward name changes. For the BOS, that's much easier to accomplish than convincing hundreds of thousands of taxpayers and voters to agree with their anti-heritage and anti-Civil War name hysteria.

I strongly urge the task force to halt the planned path we are on and inform the BOS that in fairness to all the people of Fairfax, they should call a voter referendum to decide this issue. Any other device that's used to effect name changes is merely a way of avoiding the common sense and wisdom of the

voters. No thirty individuals on a “task force” should decide for 1.2 million residents, and no BOS should arbitrarily change those names without voter agreement.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm

Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM

To: Spain, Evelyn

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group Chair Spain and others, In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7, attached are the meeting minutes for your review and comment. Thanks in advance. Please let me know if I have missed something or misrepresented any topics discussed at the meeting.

Malcolm Watson



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

Subject: FW: Comments on Renaming Lee Highway | Confederate Names Task Force

From: S Chandra

Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 5:33 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force <DOTConfederateNamesTaskForce@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Subject: Comments on Renaming Lee Highway | Confederate Names Task Force

Dear Task Force Members,

With regards to the review of names of Lee Highway (U.S. Route 29) and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (U.S. Route 50), I would like to bring following information to your notice:

a) Although Robert E. Lee was a confederate general, after the civil war he played a crucial role in restoring peace [1]. He was advised and encouraged to not surrender and continue the fight in a gorilla war manner. He was very much capable and resourceful to do it but at that moment he thought like an American and decided not to continue the fight keeping America above all. In the words of Jay Winik, the famous historian and author - "by this one momentous decision, he spared the country from the divisive guerilla warfare that surely would have followed." [2]

It was the decision by political leaders of that era that started the civil war. Robert E. Lee was only following orders. But when his turn came to make a key decision, he decided in favor of America.

b) After the civil war, he advised a confederate widow who was full of animosity towards North to rise above any sectional feeling and raise the kids as Americans. As quoted by Edward Lee Childe in his book *The Life and Campaigns of General Lee (1875)*, p. 331, Lee told the widow "Madam, don't bring up your sons to detest the United States Government. Recollect that we form but one country, now. Abandon all these local animosities, and make your sons Americans." [3]

c) According to Emory Thomas, a renowned History Professor Emeritus at the University of Georgia and noted scholar of the American Civil War Robert E. Lee played an instrumental role in the Mexican-American war (1846-1848) which resulted in the Westward expansion of the United States.[4]

The civil war and the cause behind it is a blot in American history. Yet by focusing on only one aspect of Robert E. Lee (General of the Confederate Army) and ignoring his other important contributions to America during pre and post civil war period, we may be inadvertently showing the same intolerance and hatred which caused the civil war.

Sources:

1. <https://www.nps.gov/arho/learn/historyculture/lee-s-work-for-reunification.htm>
2. April 1865, Book by Jay Winik
3. *The Life and Campaigns of General Lee (1875)* by Edward Lee Childe, p. 331.
4. Thomas, Emory M. (1997). *Robert E. Lee*. W. W. Norton & Co. ISBN 978-0-393-31631-5.

Watson, Malcolm

From: Evelyn Spain
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:52 AM
To: Kristi Dooley
Cc: edtw Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; JulietteR Shedd
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

I agree with with everything stated in Kristi's email. I stand by the decisions that have been voted on by the members of CNTF Subcommittee, the deadline set by the BOS and confirm all CNTF subcommittee correspondence has been shared by Malcolm.

Thank you for sharing thoughts.

Chair Spain

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 10, 2021, at 8:58 PM, kristi dooley :

Hi Ed,

What the subgroup agreed to was the one page sheet that Blake and Shirley worked on and the that the subgroup approved (the Task Force purpose and historical context of the highway names) being at the beginning of the survey's online version, as well as on the front page of the paper version of the survey, as a handout at the public feedback meetings, and as information that will be placed on the web site as well. Since the postcard being sent countywide links all county residents to the web site where this information is already included, there was no other conversation about a need for any additional link. Anyone who goes to the link on the postcard will already find that information there. Hopefully that addresses your concerns.

With respect to the timing of the process, we are very clear with the Board's intent for the timeframe in which the work is to be completed, and we are proceeding accordingly, as we've shared with you. Please note that doesn't preclude you from voicing your own concerns to your Board member at any time.

To my knowledge, we have not received any other emails from Task Force members with additional information or requests since our last meeting on September 20 (other than a few emails coordinating aspects of the subgroup's work). I think Malcolm has sent out to the full Task Force your emails that have detailed your concerns about timing and any other content-related issues. Just wanted to put you at ease with respect to that. You aren't missing any other correspondence from other TF members because there hasn't been any.

Hope that's helpful. Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow night!

Best,
Kristi

From: <edtw

Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3:49 PM**To:** 'evelyn spain'

Cc: "'Watson, Malcolm'

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn,

There are a few problems here.

- 1) Did the sub-group quorum realize that the historical basis for the highway names *had no link* on the post card before they voted to accept it? I certainly did not. I have no notes of planners or facilitators calling attention to that fact, or of anyone noting it beforehand. Am I wrong? Perhaps others did and said nothing about it, but I myself did not realize that the post card lacked that information. I only noticed it when I returned home from the Oct. 7 meeting.
- 2) This process is being rushed along with much of the work being done behind the scenes. The prepared material is then brought forth at our meetings with little time for the rest of us to think about what we are looking at, or, if there are other factors that should be considered.
- 3) Yes, I have raised questions about the time-line before, and have noted the lack of interest in extending the time period. Perhaps TF organizers are not permitted to push back against the BOS. Indeed this process is like a freight train going down the track, and no delays are permitted.
- 4) Among the meeting materials for Monday Oct. 11 (sent late Friday, Oct. 8) I find no attachment containing the e-mails and messages exchanged between members, staff, and facilitators since our last full meeting on September 20. That's a three week stretch in which TF members remain uninformed and out of the loop on important points raised between myself and the Chair, organizers, and facilitators. Where are those messages? Will the other TF members see them? And where are their messages? I assume that I am not the only one with points to make, and that others are having input too. I'd appreciate knowing their views as well.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: evelyn spain

Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:21 AM

To: edtw

Cc:

Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

Thank you for your feedback. The website will contain the “ Overview” link. This will allow the reader to click on the link and go directly to the overview information. Please note the quorum of subcommittee members voted on accepting the postcard as it currently stands.

We have addressed the timeline concerns numerous times, both in the CNTF meetings and with the BOS. Our commitment to meeting the deadline as stated in the initial scope remains the same.

Best,

Evelyn

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 8:53 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Yes, good evening Evelyn,

It took me a while to realize that the card did not include a link to background on the highway names. When the post card was first presented on Sept. 28, the task force did not intend it to be mailed to all residences. I then raised the issue about excluding voters and taxpayers. Now that it will be mailed to all residences (as per last night), the reasons for including the “Highway Overviews” are critical for informed decision making. Surely there is space on the card for another line with a link. That time is short is understood. However, my suggestion that the task force inform the BOS that their deadline should be extended was deemed not possible. Why, I don’t know. Sometimes plans have to be changed.

I do know that the BOS wants this business wrapped up asap so they can take their vote. But the pace at which the process is moving is almost dizzying. I have a blitz of paper here and TF staff and facilitators are working overtime to produce more. Frankly, I think it would be prudent to slow down the train and give us time to think things through—like what should go on the postcards—not hasten the train onward with safety checks not made. We need time to think and consider, and not be rushed to the finish line.

Thank you for your patience on this important matter,
Ed Wenzel

PS The “Overview” link should not only be on the post cards, but on the web site as well.

From: Spain, Evelyn

Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 7:36 PM

To: [edtw](#)

Cc:

Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Evening Ed,

Thank you so much for the compliment.

I don't recall that the postcard was ever going to include a link to the "Highway Overviews". Understanding how strongly you feel that this information needs to be shared with the public, you can ask if its' possible to put it on the website provided the Task Force agrees. Please remember, we are up against a tight deadline and it was strongly stated that changes unless it's a grave error, can not be made at this late stage.

By all means please feel free to share your concerns during the meeting on Monday. Please also let the group know you are happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Dr Shedd and I rode by there Thursday night on the way home from our meeting.

Thank you for offering.

Best,

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 1:46 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Good afternoon Evelyn,
Sorry for the delay. Yes, I am very happy that the TF has decided to mail post cards to County residences. That's good. And I compliment you

and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the "Highway Overviews" which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the "overview info" should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

Also, on the "Overview" sheet, under "Highway Overviews," in the next line, after each highway's name, I suggest adding the words "How this highway got its name." That will make it clear what the "Overview" is about.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS My concerns remain about the BOS motivation on these names. We all know what they did last year (which in my view was absolutely disgraceful), and what they want recommended on these names. I hope and pray that the uniqueness of Fairfax County's Civil War heritage is not further erased by guilt and politics-driven wokeness. Every locality has a "sense of place" and the Civil War put a massive stamp on Fairfax County. It is our history and it should not be subjected to cultural cleansing. As I said last night, I would happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park for anyone who might be interested.

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 10:13 AM
To: [edtw](#)
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

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Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

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Mr. Watson,

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Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:14 AM
To: 'Watson, Malcolm'
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public
Engagement Sub-Group
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Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm<
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM

To: Spain, Evelyn

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public

Engagement Sub-Group Chair Spain and others, In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7, attached are the meeting minutes for your review and comment. Thanks in advance. Please let me know if I have missed something or misrepresented any topics discussed at the meeting.

Malcolm Watson



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

From: evelyn spain
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:21
To: Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; Kristi Dooley; Juliette R Shedd
Cc: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group
Subject:

Morning Ed,

Thank you for your feedback. The website will contain the “ Overview” link. This will allow the reader to click on the link and go directly to the overview information. Please note the quorum of subcommittee members voted on accepting the postcard as it currently stands.

We have addressed the timeline concerns numerous times, both in the CNTF meetings and with the BOS. Our commitment to meeting the deadline as stated in the initial scope remains the same.

Best,

Evelyn

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 8:53 PM, edtw wrote:

Yes, good evening Evelyn,

It took me a while to realize that the card did not include a link to background on the highway names. When the post card was first presented on Sept. 28, the task force did not intend it to be mailed to all residences. I then raised the issue about excluding voters and taxpayers. Now that it will be mailed to all residences (as per last night), the reasons for including the “Highway Overviews” are critical for informed decision making. Surely there is space on the card for another line with a link. That time is short is understood. However, my suggestion that the task force inform the BOS that their deadline should be extended was deemed not possible. Why, I don’t know. Sometimes plans have to be changed.

I do know that the BOS wants this business wrapped up asap so they can take their vote. But the pace at which the process is moving is almost dizzying. I have a blitz of paper here and TF staff and facilitators are working overtime to produce more. Frankly, I think it would be prudent to slow down the train and give us time to think things through—like what should go on the postcards—not hasten the train

onward with safety checks not made. We need time to think and consider, and not be rushed to the finish line.

Thank you for your patience on this important matter,
Ed Wenzel

PS The "Overview" link should not only be on the post cards, but on the web site as well.

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 7:36 PM
To: edtw
Cc:
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Evening Ed,

Thank you so much for the compliment.

I don't recall that the postcard was ever going to include a link to the "Highway Overviews". Understanding how strongly you feel that this information needs to be shared with the public, you can ask if its' possible to put it on the website provided the Task Force agrees. Please remember, we are up against a tight deadline and it was strongly stated that changes unless it's a grave error, can not be made at this late stage.

By all means please feel free to share your concerns during the meeting on Monday. Please also let the group know you are happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Dr Shedd and I rode by there Thursday night on the way home from our meeting.

Thank you for offering.

Best,

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 1:46 PM, [edtw](#) wrote:

Good afternoon Evelyn,
Sorry for the delay. Yes, I am very happy that the TF has decided to mail post cards to County residences. That's good. And I compliment you and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the "Highway Overviews" which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the "overview info" should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

Also, on the "Overview" sheet, under "Highway Overviews," in the next line, after each highway's name, I suggest adding the words "How this highway got its name." That will make it clear what the "Overview" is about.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS My concerns remain about the BOS motivation on these names. We all know what they did last year (which in my view was absolutely disgraceful), and what they want recommended on these names. I hope and pray that the uniqueness of Fairfax County's Civil War heritage is not further erased by guilt and politics-driven wokeness. Every locality has a "sense of place" and the Civil War put a massive stamp on Fairfax County. It is our history and it should not be subjected to cultural cleansing. As I said last night, I would happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park for anyone who might be interested.

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 10:13 AM
To: [edtw](#)
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

I believe we addressed this last evening during our sub committee meeting. Please let me know if you have any additional concerns around the USPS item.

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 7, 2021, at 9:33 AM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Mr. Watson,

I received no reply yesterday to my query about the Sub-Group minutes not containing an important point of information: That the Task Force *will not utilize* the USPS to provide information to all Fairfax County households regarding changing the highway names. Instead, other selective means will be used for sampling purposes, but nothing will be targeted at the voters/taxpayers. The minutes should reflect that the Task Force will not use the USPS to contact voters on this important matter.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:14 AM

To: 'Watson, Malcolm'

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for forwarding the minutes of the Sub-Group meeting last week. I noticed there is one point missing from those minutes: I believe I asked whether the public survey would be mailed to all households in Fairfax County (via USPS) in order to give all voters and taxpayers the opportunity to respond to the proposed highway name changes. I noted that the response to this question was negative and that other means of communication were planned such as Supervisor's on-line newsletters, mailouts of postcards to the business community nearest the highways, County websites, chambers of commerce, social media (someone said millennials get their information there), "hashtags," and probably other means which I have forgotten. In any

event, those means of outreach are limited and do not include the vast majority of Fairfax citizens.

I firmly believe that Fairfax voters and taxpayers should decide this name issue on a ballot referendum. That's the only "fair" way to decide whether or not to change the names of two primary highways that have existed here for 100 years— names that reflect the Civil War heritage of Fairfax County and make us unique in the Washington area. I've raised this issue several times before but no one seems interested in the logic of it. I think I understand why. The BOS does not want voters weighing in because they might reject the costly and ideologically driven agenda and cast their votes to keep the existing names. And the BOS wants those names and history erased. So no referendum, and they appoint a task force guided by paid contract facilitators to steer us toward name changes. For the BOS, that's much easier to accomplish than convincing hundreds of thousands of taxpayers and voters to agree with their anti-heritage and anti-Civil War name hysteria.

I strongly urge the task force to halt the planned path we are on and inform the BOS that in fairness to all the people of Fairfax, they should call a voter referendum to decide this issue. Any other device that's used to effect name changes is merely a way of avoiding the common sense and wisdom of the voters. No thirty individuals on a "task force" should decide for 1.2 million residents, and no BOS should arbitrarily change those names without voter agreement.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM
To: Spain, Evelyn
Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Chair Spain and others,

In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7, attached are the meeting minutes for your review and comment.

Thanks in advance. Please let me know if I have missed something or misrepresented any topics discussed at the meeting.

Malcolm Watson

On Wed, Oct 6, 2021 at 11:13 AM <[edtw](#)> wrote: Mr. Watson,

Thank you for forwarding the minutes of the Sub-Group meeting last week. I noticed there is one point missing from those minutes: I believe I asked whether the public survey would be mailed to all households in Fairfax County (via USPS) in order to give all voters and taxpayers the opportunity to respond to the proposed highway name changes. I noted that the response to this question was negative and that other means of communication were planned such as Supervisor's on-line newsletters, mailouts of postcards to the business community nearest the highways, County websites, chambers of commerce, social media (someone said millennials get their information there), "hashtags," and probably other means which I have forgotten. In any event, those means of outreach are limited and do not include the vast majority of Fairfax citizens.

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Thank you,

Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM
To: Spain, Evelyn
Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Chair Spain and others,

In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7, attached are the meeting minutes for your review and comment.

Thanks in advance. Please let me know if I have missed something or misrepresented any topics discussed at the meeting.

Malcolm Watson

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 10:36 AM
To: Watson, Malcolm
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for sending the FOIA and meeting links. I have tried to view them but cannot get audio on the Ch 16 video at the 31 minute mark. The video begins with audio, but when I move to 31 minutes, all I get is a circle rotating in the center of the screen with no audio or video motion. Also, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act video does the same thing and it's a 3 hour video. No advancing forward in the video if you knew where to go, which I don't. I don't have the time to watch either video from the beginning. Doesn't anyone know the answer to my question without viewing the video? Isn't there a printed document with table of contents and index that can be forwarded?

Thanks,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 4:14 PM
To: edtw
Cc:
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Wenzel,

Thank you for following up. Regarding your questions about communication guidelines, I've provided the link to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act training video. I've also provided the link to the Confederate Names Task Force website, where you can view the meeting recorded on August 16. At that meeting, Louis Nuzzo, Assistant County Attorney with the Office of the County Attorney for Fairfax County provided the Task Force with an overview of Virginia Freedom of Information Act regulations beginning at the 31 minute mark.

- Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA) training video: https://www.ebmcdn.net/fairfax/fairfax-cable-viewer-cc-r-embed.php?viewnode=2020_VFOIA_cc
- [Confederate Names Task Force | Transportation \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

Thanks again, and please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have additional questions.

Malcolm

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Watson, Malcolm
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

I have a question. We are not supposed to talk/email with more than one TF member at a time to avoid creating a "meeting." But we can e-mail one member and then separately forward that e-mail to another member; or perhaps send to four or five other members if done one by one. That kind of defeats the purpose of the rule, no? Also, while I can't discuss TF business with more than one member at a time, I can discuss my thoughts on the subject, or send comments, to non-Task Force people or friends, correct? Can you please send me a link to the Virginia guidelines/ requirements that govern here?

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 11:56 AM
To:
Subject: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good morning,

Thank you for volunteering for the Public Engagement Sub-Group of the Confederate Names Task Force. If possible, the group should meet twice before the next Task Force meeting, which is scheduled for October 11. Can you please let me know if you're available to meet in person on either Tuesday or Thursday evenings during the weeks of September 27 and October 4?

- Week of September 27: Tuesday 9/28 or Thursday 9/30
- Week of October 4: Tuesday 10/5 or Thursday 10/7

Can you please respond with your availability by tomorrow (Thursday) at 12 PM? We will pass along the meeting details thereafter.

Thank you again, and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Malcolm Watson

Transportation Planner



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:58 PM
To: Watson, Malcolm
Subject: Confederate Names TF. 9/20 meeting

Mr. Watson,

I'm not sure what happened last night with the muted phone connection. My phone was on talk but I was not being heard. I tried to speak during the 4th segment but had to hang up and call you to look into the problem. I then dialed back and got through and made my remarks. I suppose a switch was off somewhere?

I don't believe this TF process is going to work. From the "road map" or schedule, it looks like the path has already been mapped out to lead to a name change. That's what Jeff McKay wants and he is on public record saying so, as is our TF Chair. One TF member said he was under the impression that the only reason for the TF was to change the names, and his impression is valid given supervisors' statements and media reports.

From my correspondence and experience with four supervisors—name changes are what they want. Of course, the BOS can request that the Commonwealth Transportation Board change the names without any recommendation from anyone. My take is that the BOS wants the task force for political cover to help them deflect criticism. That is my view and I believe it is correct.

As for the "Community Engagement Plans" and working with district supervisors to plan "Community briefings," whatever material is assembled for one district must be the same for all districts. And the information must be correct, not false narratives. Last night we heard again that Gen. Lee was a "traitor" who fought to "overthrow the U.S. Government." The facilitator said nothing because she probably didn't know. That narrative about Lee is completely false but it is deeply ingrained in a lot of people who absolutely believe it because they don't understand what really happened. Misinformation cannot be presented as fact to community groups.

Historical Ignorance of Confederate Generals, 7/22/20 <https://patriotpost.us/opinion/72310-historical-ignorance-and-confederate-generals-2020-07-22>

Abraham Lincoln, 2/20/13 <https://patriotpost.us/opinion/16820-abraham-lincoln-2013-02-20>

Regarding name changes or not, it was said that we should do "what the community wants" and defer to the "community's wishes." Note that "the community" does not mean "the voters." Whatever outreach we do is going to exclude hundreds of thousands of Fairfax County voters. A voter referendum is the only way to know public sentiment on this historical name issue. Someone said a referendum was "inappropriate." But why? If the BOS wants to change the names of two primary highways that have been named for a hundred years, why shouldn't voters have a say? The question should be on the ballot. Perhaps the voters are not trusted? It's a fundamental issue of fairness. The TF should recommend a ballot referendum to the BOS. That would take the onus off the TF and the people who really matter would decide. We are only 30 people being asked to decide for 1.2 million Fairfax residents. That's not fair by anyone's standard.

Much was said about being "Welcoming" and "Inclusive," inferring that we can't be if the highway names don't change. That's nonsense. Immigrants are pouring into the County every day and they know zero about the American Civil War. Lee, Jackson, Stuart and Mosby mean nothing to them. They are historical American

Comment on Confederate highway name change

PB

Paul Bjarnason <paul.bjarnason@gmail.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 8:31 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Dear Board of Supervisors and Name Change Task Force –

My comments are:

1 – Time is valuable, so I wish we could spend our time on something more important. We have all these smart people spending hundreds of hours on this issue. I think there are issues of greater importance and I trust that you know what they are.

2 – Cost should be a consideration – what will it cost to change all the highway signs, maps, brochures and stationery? Who will pay for this?

3 – Name changes will sow confusion, unnecessary confusion.

Thank you.

Paul Bjarnason
4712 Montgomery Street
Annandale, VA 22003
703.627.1324

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Reply | **Forward**

Changing names of Lee Hwy., etc

JD

jean dunnigan <jndunni@yahoo.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 8:41 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force

Stop erasing history. Learn from it and don't repeat it.

Reply | **Forward**



Road renaming

BD

Brian Deckert <deck314@mac.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 8:49 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



I fully support renaming the roads in Fairfax city to remove Confederate references. In addition to Lee Highway, Picket Road and Old Picket Road should be renamed.

Regards,

Brian Deckert
3421 White Oak Ct
Fairfax, VA 22030

Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**

Please keep Lee Highway name

CD

Christopher Dietz <bigtig1165@gmail.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 10:26 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Please stop wasting your and our time and money on changing names of highways and roads. There have to be a hundred more important things you can focus your time and OUR money on.

Keep Lee Highway, Lee Highway.

Thank you.

Very Respectfully,

Chris Dietz

(703) 862-1331

<https://www.messenger.com/t/letsgetfitwthchris>

Reply | **Forward**

Stop removing our heritage

SB

Shayne Berlo <shayneberlo@hotmail.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 10:41 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force

Leave our history and heritage alone.

Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**



Re: Why don't you do a poll before you change Confederate names?

WP

Wayne Lutton, Ph.D. <waynelutton@gmail.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 10:45 PM

To: Taylor <taylor@aya.yale.edu>

Cc: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



I vote yes. Good letter.

On Thu, Oct 14, 2021 at 4:48 PM Taylor <taylor@aya.yale.edu> wrote:

Dear Confederate Names Task Force,

I understand the desire to rename things, but why don't you let the voters decide? Isn't that what democracy is for?

Polling is not expensive. Rather than spending months talking to probably unrepresentative people, please put the question to a vote.

What possible objections can you have to such a solution?

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Taylor

2705 Green Holly Springs Court, Oakton, VA 22124

703 716-0930

Reply | **Reply all** | **Forward**

Survey to Change Names of Highways

RS

Rita Semenov <ritaseme@msn.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 12:16 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Hi and thank you for addressing this issue!

Yes, I'm thrilled, please DO change the names of Lee, Lee-Jackson, Mosby highways, and others named for Confederate generals. High time to quit glorifying these proponents of a culture of racism and slavery.

While we're on the subject, let's also change the sad and gruesome name of "Gallows Road" to something that we could be more proud of.

Thanks again and best wishes,

Rita Semenov
6807 Kincaid Ave
Falls Church, VA 22042
703-618-0351

Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**

Kearny-Stevens Memorial Highway

CT

Chad Tucker <chadetucker@gmail.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 12:26 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Dear Task Force Members,

In July of 2020, I wrote to my Virginia Delegate and State Senator recommending Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway be renamed to **Kearny-Stevens Memorial Highway**, for the reasons that follow. Both Senator Marsden and Delegate Bulova wrote back in support of this suggestion.

Lee and Jackson were historically connected to this stretch of road—as villains—and I suggest we should instead honor the heroes of the same story.

After the U.S. Army's defeat at the Second Battle of Bull Run, Lee directed Jackson to flank the Union position, marching down Little River Turnpike (now the stretch of US-50 in question) to cut off the U.S. Army's retreat to our nation's Capital. Had the maneuver been successful, the C.S.A. could have captured Washington, D.C.

On September 1, 1862, at the Battle of Chantilly (also called the Battle of Ox Hill), a U.S. Army force, outnumbered more than 3-to-1, held off Jackson's flanking maneuver in the area near what is now Fair Oaks Mall, giving the rest of the Union army time to withdraw to the defense of Washington. During this action, both U.S. Army major generals involved, Phillip Kearny and Isaac Stevens, were killed while attacking C.S.A positions.

I encourage you to visit Ox Hill Battlefield Park (website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ox-hill>), maintained by the Fairfax County Parks Authority at West Ox Road and Monument Drive in the Fair Lakes area, which holds cenotaphs to both Kearny and Stevens. More importantly, I encourage you to rename that stretch of US-50 as the "**Kearny-Stevens Memorial Highway**," to honor the memory of those men who died there defending our country from the traitorous assaults of Lee and Jackson.

This renaming would preserve the history of the area, while putting our county on the right side of it.

Best,

Chad Tucker
11422 Tiger Lily Lane, Fairfax VA 22030
(240) 273-8922
chadetucker@gmail.com

Confederate Names Task Force

H

hologram@cox.net

Fri 10/15/2021 2:47 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



To Whom it may concern,

I have lived in Fairfax Virginia since 1994.

I do NOT want the names of Lee Highway or Lee Jackson Memorial Highway to change.

Sincerely,

Laura Schuberg

Reply | **Forward**

Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy Name

DH

Danny Halim <dhalim76@gmail.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 4:11 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Task Force members,

Please don't waste taxpayers money and resources to change road names.

The road name has been around for awhile, it has become our landmark, our reference for direction/navigation, and most of us do not associate the road name with the US history.

Focus the effort, resources, and money to clean up the Lee Jackson Memorial Highway:

- clean up the trash, beautify our roads
- prevent homeless beggars (they look healthy and capable to work) to hang around the traffic lights - give them work to clean the road instead
- provide better pedestrian facilities

Every minute you spend to meet about this topic can be used to make improvements instead!

Danny Halim
+1 (703) 980-5192

Reply | **Forward**

Lee-Jackson Highway renaming

DW

Diane Williams <dianewms@aol.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 5:01 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



No one will probably buy this, but, rather than rename Lee-Jackson highway, REDEDICATE it to these notable Virginians instead.

Richard Henry Lee: an American statesman and Founding Father from Virginia, best known for the June 1776 Lee Resolution, the motion in the Second Continental Congress calling for the colonies' independence from Great Britain leading to the United States Declaration of Independence, which he signed.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_family>

Congressman John George Jackson from Clarksburg (then Virginia prior to the Civil War):

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_G._Jackson_\(politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_G._Jackson_(politician))

John George Jackson is my 4th great grandfather and brother-in-law to President James and Dolly Madison.

Diane Williams
7478 Zanuck Ct.
Annandale, VA 22003

Reply | Forward

Fw: Confederate Names Task Force

ES

Eric Stewart <edubstew@yahoo.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 10:33 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Eric Stewart" <edubstew@yahoo.com>

To: "DOTInfo@fairfaxcounty.gov" <DOTInfo@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Sent: Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 7:29 AM

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force

Good Morning,

My name is Eric Stewart I live in Mason Neck Virginia. I have lived in Virginia for all 36 years of my life born and raised. I hope this email reaches the correct people. I just want my opposition to the changing of these names to be known. General Robert E. Lee and General Stonewall Jackson are well deserving to keep the roads named after them. They were honorable men, Christian men, and exceptional Virginia's. Please don't fall to the winds of change, don't change names for change sake.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Reply | Forward

From a long time Virginia Resident

IH

Ingrid Hohlfelder <rsingrid@me.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 11:12 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



History is history leave our history alone. Quit taking down statues and renaming schools and roads.

I weep for my grandchildren.

Thank you for allowing our feedback.

Ingrid Hohlfelder
41915 Quickstep Pl
Aldie Va. 20105

703/939-4174

Reply | **Forward**

Renaming of Confederacy related highways

KK

Kevin Kilcoyne <kwkilcoyne@icloud.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 11:19 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Task Force members,

As can be seen from the large amount of renaming efforts currently underway, it is neither a quick nor inexpensive effort. With this in mind, consideration should be given to a policy of choosing names that do not use the name of a person, living or dead. The likelihood is that at some point in time some human character defect will emerge and calls for renaming will again begin. One need only consider recent examples such as Bill Cosby to reinforce the point.

Respectfully submitted.

Kevin Kilcoyne

Sent from my iPad

Reply | **Forward**

Dont change highway names

G

ghog36 <ghog36@aol.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 11:34 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force

Why do you ask for feedback. You will do what you want.

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

Reply | Forward



Lee Highway name change

AM

allen mears <allen.mears@cox.net>

Fri 10/15/2021 12:32 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Good morning:

My ancestors fought on both sides in the Civil War; infantry soldiers with the Union and navy sailors in the confederacy. I see no reason to change the name of Lee Highway.

Sincerely,

Cdr. Allen Mears
USN (Retired)
1419 Buena Vista Avenue
McLean, VA 22101
703-847-9079



[Reply](#) | [Forward](#)

Renaming Lee Highway

JR

John Rickards <jdrickards@cox.net>

Fri 10/15/2021 12:54 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Quit trying to erase history. Learn from it not rewrite it. It's no wonder our youth have no knowledge of our countries history when it is being erased over political correctness.

John Rickards

Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**

CHANGING THE NAME OF 29/50

DS

Denise Stalaker <dstalaker@fhfurr.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 1:19 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



PLEASE FIND SOMETHING BETTER TO SPEND YOUR TIME AND OUR HARD WORKING TAX PAYERS MONEY ON! HOW ABOUT PARKS AND RECREATION? FIRST RESPONDERS?

Thank you,

| Denise Stalaker

Reply | Forward

Renaming Highways

BT

Bob thompson <wthrspn2000@yahoo.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 1:40 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force

Please stop!

Thank you,
BThompson

Reply | **Forward**



Watson, Malcolm

To: Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Dominguez, Noelle C.; Nissinen, Anna; Geiger, Robin
Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Comment Received

Chair Spain and others,

I received a call from Mrs. Linda Osbourne and her husband, Lewis. They recently saw the media coverage of Fairfax County's Confederate Names Task Force. She requested that I type the statement below and share it with the Taskforce.

Linda and Lewis Osbourne:

We do not want the name changed. Some of our best friends are descendants of Robert E. Lee. The tearing down of monuments and changing street names is horrifying. One of our friends was offered to store a Lee statue. We're generational Virginians, and we have a long history of church affiliation at Mountain View Methodist Church, which was built in 1888, where our grandparents, other family members, and many veterans lie. Virginia is a beautiful state, and it is not a racist state, and we will not be divided. My great grandfather was the superintendent of schools many years ago. We have one hundred family members that reside in Virginia. And we're split, democrats, republicans, and independent. We also have bi-racial family members. Changing the street names will not change true Virginians. We will not be divided. We are a caring and giving state.

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw1661@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 8:21 AM
To: 'Evelyn Spain'; Kristi Dooley
Cc: Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; 'Juliette R Shedd'
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good morning Evelyn,

Just getting back to you on that bullet point in the September 20 minutes. What I said was something like this: While we heard a lot about One Fairfax, DEI, and Inclusion at our first meeting, this Task Force *is NOT Inclusive*—rather it is *deliberately Exclusive*. We are *deliberately excluding* the voters and taxpayers of Fairfax County. No thirty hand-picked individuals should make recommendations for changing primary highway names because a question like that *should only be on a ballot referendum*.

And the BOS knows it, which is why it created this TF to provide political cover. All the name change efforts have cost hundreds of thousands already and likely millions more and much disruption before it's done. The BOS does not trust its own voters on this matter, as I've said before.

Also, you jumped the gun in correcting me about "Asian-Americans." I didn't appreciate it. I was referencing Korean, Chinese, and Urdu speakers who likely know next to nothing about the U.S. Civil War, or how something as mundane as street names can cause such headaches in 21st century America. They would probably have no opinion about names at all, or could care less. That's all I was trying to say. Concern about political correctness was misplaced. Indeed, why would any immigrant be concerned about what Americans name our highways and subdivision streets? Yet, this TF presumes to think otherwise. In my humble opinion, the entire name issue is political correctness and wokeness.

Given the many comments and concerns I heard last night regarding the wording of the survey questions, it is my view that the rush to get out the survey by October 13 is misplaced. We are not ready for that as Mr. Floyd said at the close of our meeting, and I agree. However, TF planners have said that the survey has no statistical validity, so perhaps unclear language is not that important?? However it is, I think more thought and better wordsmithing would be the best course. We should not cut corners to meet an artificial deadline.

Now, regarding all the assurances that my e-mails had been sent to all members, I found out late yesterday that was not the case as the e-mail below indicates:

From: Watson, Malcolm _____
>**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Edtw1661@gmail.com
Subject: Email Messages

Mr. Wenzel,

We're compiling email messages that came through the Confederate Names Task Force website portal and those correspondences received directly by staff. I'm reaching out to ensure that you're okay with sharing your email messages with Taskforce members. Please advise. [emphasis added]

well. Since the postcard being sent countywide links all county residents to the web site where this information is already included, there was no other conversation about a need for any additional link. Anyone who goes to the link on the postcard will already find that information there. Hopefully that addresses your concerns.

With respect to the timing of the process, we are very clear with the Board's intent for the timeframe in which the work is to be completed, and we are proceeding accordingly, as we've shared with you. Please note that doesn't preclude you from voicing your own concerns to your Board member at any time.

To my knowledge, we have not received any other emails from Task Force members with additional information or requests since our last meeting on September 20 (other than a few emails coordinating aspects of the subgroup's work). I think Malcolm has sent out to the full Task Force your emails that have detailed your concerns about timing and any other content-related issues. Just wanted to put you at ease with respect to that. You aren't missing any other correspondence from other TF members because there hasn't been any.

Hope that's helpful. Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow night!

Best,
Kristi

From: <edtw1661@gmail.com>
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3:49 PM
To: 'evelyn spain' _____
Cc: "" _____
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn, _____

There are a few problems here.

- 1) Did the sub-group quorum realize that the historical basis for the highway names *had no link* on the post card before they voted to accept it? I certainly did not. I have no notes of planners or facilitators calling attention to that fact, or of anyone noting it beforehand. Am I wrong? Perhaps others did and said nothing about it, but I myself did not realize that the post card lacked that information. I only noticed it when I returned home from the Oct. 7 meeting.
- 2) This process is being rushed along with much of the work being done behind the scenes. The prepared material is then brought forth at our meetings with little time for the rest of us to think about what we are looking at, or, if there are other factors that should be considered.
- 3) Yes, I have raised questions about the time-line before, and have noted the lack of interest in extending the time period. Perhaps TF organizers are not permitted to push back against the BOS. Indeed this process is like a freight train going down the track, and no delays are permitted.
- 4) Among the meeting materials for Monday Oct. 11 (sent late Friday, Oct. 8) I find no attachment containing the e-mails and messages exchanged between members, staff, and facilitators since our last full meeting on September 20. That's a three week stretch in which TF members remain uninformed and out of the loop on important points raised

between myself and the Chair, organizers, and facilitators. Where are those messages? Will the other TF members see them? And where are their messages? I assume that I am not the only one with points to make, and that others are having input too. I'd appreciate knowing their views as well.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: evelyn spain _____
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:21 AM
To: edtw1661@gmail.com
Cc: _____
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group _____

Morning Ed, _____

Thank you for your feedback. The website will contain the "Overview" link. This will allow the reader to click on the link and go directly to the overview information. Please note the quorum of subcommittee members voted on accepting the postcard as it currently stands.

We have addressed the timeline concerns numerous times, both in the CNTF meetings and with the BOS. Our commitment to meeting the deadline as stated in the initial scope remains the same.

Best,

Evelyn

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 8:53 PM, edtw1661@gmail.com wrote:

Yes, good evening Evelyn,

It took me a while to realize that the card did not include a link to background on the highway names. When the post card was first presented on Sept. 28, the task force did not intend it to be mailed to all residences. I then raised the issue about excluding voters and taxpayers. Now that it will be mailed to all residences (as per last night), the reasons for including the "Highway Overviews" are critical for informed decision making. Surely there is space on the card for another line with a link. That time is short

is understood. However, my suggestion that the task force inform the BOS that their deadline should be extended was deemed not possible. Why, I don't know. Sometimes plans have to be changed.

I do know that the BOS wants this business wrapped up asap so they can take their vote. But the pace at which the process is moving is almost dizzying. I have a blitz of paper here and TF staff and facilitators are working overtime to produce more. Frankly, I think it would be prudent to slow down the train and give us time to think things through—like what should go on the postcards—not hasten the train onward with safety checks not made. We need time to think and consider, and not be rushed to the finish line.

Thank you for your patience on this important matter,
Ed Wenzel

PS The "Overview" link should not only be on the post cards, but on the web site as well.

From: Spain, Evelyn _____
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 7:36 PM
To: edtw1661@gmail.com
Cc: _____
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Evening Ed, _____

Thank you so much for the compliment.

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By all means please feel free to share your concerns during the meeting on Monday. Please also let the group know you are happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Dr Shedd and I rode by there Thursday night on the way home from our meeting.

Thank you for offering.

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Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

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Sorry for the delay. Yes, I am very happy that the TF has decided to mail post cards to County residences. That's good. And I compliment you and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the "Highway Overviews" which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the "overview info" should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

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Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS My concerns remain about the BOS motivation on these names. We all know what they did last year (which in my view was absolutely disgraceful), and what they want recommended on these names. I hope and pray that the uniqueness of Fairfax County's Civil War heritage is not further erased by guilt and politics-driven wokeness. Every locality has a "sense of place" and the Civil War put a massive stamp on Fairfax County. It is our history and it should not be subjected to cultural cleansing. As I said last night, I would happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park for anyone who might be interested.

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Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group
Morning Ed,

I believe we addressed this last evening during our sub committee meeting. Please let me know if you have any additional concerns around the USPS item.

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

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Mr. Watson,
I received no reply yesterday to my query about the Sub-Group minutes not containing an important point of information: That the Task Force *will not utilize* the USPS to provide information to all Fairfax County households regarding changing the highway names. Instead, other selective means will be used for sampling purposes, but nothing will be targeted at the voters/taxpayers. The minutes should reflect that the Task Force will not use the USPS to contact voters on this important matter.
Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: edtw1661@gmail.com <edtw1661@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:14 AM
To: 'Watson, Malcolm

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for forwarding the minutes of the Sub-Group meeting last week. I noticed there is one point missing from those minutes: I believe I asked whether the public survey would be mailed to all households in Fairfax County (via USPS) in order to give all voters and taxpayers the opportunity to respond to the proposed highway name changes. I noted that the response to this question was negative and that other means of communication were planned such as Supervisor's on-line newsletters, mailouts of postcards to the business community nearest the highways, County websites, chambers of commerce, social media (someone said millennials get their information there), "hashtags," and probably other means which I have forgotten. In any event, those means of outreach are limited and do not include the vast majority of Fairfax citizens.

I firmly believe that Fairfax voters and taxpayers should decide this name issue on a ballot referendum. That's the only "fair" way to decide whether or not to change the names of two primary highways that have existed here for 100 years— names that reflect the Civil War heritage of Fairfax County and make us unique in the Washington area. I've raised this issue several times before but no one seems interested in the logic of it. I think I understand why. The BOS does not want voters weighing in because they might reject the costly and ideologically driven agenda and cast their votes to keep the existing names. And the BOS wants those names and history erased. So no referendum, and they appoint a task force guided by paid contract facilitators to steer us toward name changes. For the BOS, that's much easier to accomplish than convincing hundreds of thousands of taxpayers and voters to agree with their anti-heritage and anti-Civil War name hysteria.

I strongly urge the task force to halt the planned path we are on and inform the BOS that in fairness to all the people of Fairfax, they should call a voter referendum to decide this issue. Any other device that's used to effect name changes is merely a way of avoiding the common sense and wisdom of the voters. No thirty individuals on a "task force" should decide for 1.2 million residents, and no BOS should arbitrarily change those names without voter agreement.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM
To: Spain, Evelyn
Subject: - Public

Engagement Sub-Group

Chair Spain and others,

In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7,
attached are the meeting minutes for your review and
comment.

~~Thanks in advance.~~ Please let me know if I have missed
~~something or misrepresented~~ any topics discussed at
the meeting.

Malcolm Watson



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

To my fellow Fairfax patriots on the Confederate Names Task Force,

Friends, I am sending you this letter so my voice may be heard amongst the many concerns expressed during the September 20th meeting. I am confident each of you is a patriotic citizen, and I am sincere in my conclusion each of you wants what is best for Fairfax County and your community. A little about me, I am native Southern white male from a blended race family. Growing up, we opened our home to African exchange students, all of whom I'm still friends with today, and this experience fundamentally shaped my world view. I'm a civilian staff officer for the Headquarters Dept. of the Army, and I fundamentally believe all people are created equal and racism has no place anywhere in the United States.

I agreed to participate on this Task Force because I have pragmatic concerns about changing street names and the unintended consequences to the communities impacted. Based on the data available to us, how do we know if there will be second or third order negative impacts? If even one human life (black, white, or other) is harmed because the GPS in a 911 dispatch hasn't updated, and can't find an accident site on formerly Lee-Jackson HWY, is this worth it? I don't know if this is a problem or not. These are data points we're missing.

Yesterday, when I attempted to raise these concerns, I was silenced abruptly, told “this is not in our purview,” and my concerns were not heard. – THIS WAS WRONG.

Week one, we universally agreed we wanted to be heard. The September 20th meeting discouraged me, and is therefore the reason I am sending you this letter. Months ago, I voiced similar concerns about cost, public safety, and impact to local businesses to Supervisor Walkinshaw, and he invited me to join the task force specifically to provide this perspective (see enclosed email).

I'm concerned how much this will cost because I don't want my taxes to go up at a time when we've all felt inflation and economic strain during the pandemic. This expense was not earmarked in the 2022 budget, and I have genuine concerns about fiscal transparency within the Fairfax County government. I also have honest concerns about the impact on local businesses and residents on both roadways. This will cost them money. Rebranding websites, updating address, and “Lee Highway” is written on shipping orders all over the place. At a time when businesses are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, is this really a good move? What will be the impact to 911 dispatchers? Road names have been changed in Fairfax County before (e.g. Jefferson Davis Highway), and I believe these answers exist and would provide valuable data points for us to make an informed decision whether or not to recommend changing anything to the Board of Supervisors.

At risk of providing too much in one letter, I also want to offer some perspective why Southerners often still see Robert E. Lee as an icon. The institution of slavery was so evil, and the thought of dividing the United States so heinous that Southerners who sacrificed so much—economic ruin and more than ¼ of the male population dead—were desperate for something to be proud of. Placing aside the politics around the war, Generals Lee and Jackson were tactically brilliant and military academies around the world still study their campaigns today. Furthermore, Lee's post-war example made him one of the most important figures in

reunification of the Nation. Many Southerners wanted to continue to fight a gorilla war for years, but he refused, and many followed his example to return to the Union. After the war, Lee also used his influence to encourage peace between the races, expelling white students from Washington College for harassing black citizens of Lexington. To underscore the roll Lee played in reunification of the Nation, in the book *Crucible of Command*, biographer William C. Davis (who is not a Lost Cause proponent) references a movement in New York and Pennsylvania to encourage Ulysses Grant to run for President with Lee as his Vice-Presidential running mate.

Consider also what the Virginia Museum of History & Culture says: “Those who argue that he chose to fight for slavery rather than against it, and that this is all one needs to know about Lee, lose sight of the extent of the sacrifice that he made. His decision was not about defending slavery; it was about doing what he thought was right.”

<https://virginiahistory.org/learn/historical-book/chapter/reconciliation>

You do not have to agree with any of this interpretation of history, but Fairfax County cannot fundamentally be an “Inclusive” society without acknowledging these types of opinions and that there are residents who feel this way. To be very clear, I am referring to honest residents with a different interpretation of history who simultaneously respect the rights of all mankind. I don’t really care about the feelings of racial supremacists because their ignorance negates any reasonably public consideration.

Inclusivity requires us to make room for people of all races, genders, sexual orientations, political leanings, and those who have a different historic or cultural background to our own. Fairfax County’s mantra should be to build new monuments and name new streets to represent everyone, and not to destroy or rename; these actions are divisive and exclude citizens who feel their opinions are not valued. Add more, not less.

It is not my intention to upset anyone, and I’m not an argumentative or heartless person. I love all people, I love my community, and I would not participate in this Task Force were I not convinced of its genuinely good-hearted value. God Bless all of you, and thank you for receiving my thoughts.

Very respectfully,

Robert H. Floyd

Enclosure

From: BraddockBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov,
To: roberthfloyd@aol.com,
Cc: Sally.Kidalov@fairfaxcounty.gov, Frank.Anderson@fairfaxcounty.gov,
Subject: Task Force on Lee Highway and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway
Date: Mon, Mar 1, 2021 5:43 pm

Hello Mr. Floyd,

Hope you're doing well. I'm reaching out because of your interest in the Confederate Names inventory and the county's process for considering the renaming of such sites. As you may be aware, the Board of Supervisors is putting together a task force to discuss the two major roadways identified, Lee Highway and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. As Braddock is one of the districts through which these roads run, we are appointing individuals to the task force. This group will be charged with developing an outreach process for engaging the community, receiving input on whether to change the names, and potentially considering alternate names. If the task force recommends changing the names, it will suggest a short list of names to be incorporated into a community survey. Following this, the Board of Supervisors would hold one or more public hearings and then consider whether it wants to keep the road names the same or change them.

While we can't predict the outcome, I think it is likely that the majority of this task force will be in support of changing the names. That may or may not be your position but based on your interest and the respectable conversations we've had, Supervisor Walkinshaw thought your perspective would be valuable.

If you'd like to participate, please let us know. The time commitment would be roughly one virtual meeting per month for a span of three to six months.

Thanks,

Frank Anderson

Watson, Malcolm

From: Evelyn Spain
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:52 AM
To:
Cc: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Subject:

Morning Ed,

I agree with with everything stated in Kristi's email. I stand by the decisions that have been voted on by the members of CNTF Subcommittee, the deadline set by the BOS and confirm all CNTF subcommittee correspondence has been shared by Malcolm.

Thank you for sharing thoughts.

Chair Spain

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 10, 2021, at 8:58 PM, kristi dooley> wrote:

Hi Ed,

What the subgroup agreed to was the one page sheet that Blake and Shirley worked on and the that the subgroup approved (the Task Force purpose and historical context of the highway names) being at the beginning of the survey's online version, as well as on the front page of the paper version of the survey, as a handout at the public feedback meetings, and as information that will be placed on the web site as well. Since the postcard being sent countywide links all county residents to the web site where this information is already included, there was no other conversation about a need for any additional link. Anyone who goes to the link on the postcard will already find that information there. Hopefully that addresses your concerns.

With respect to the timing of the process, we are very clear with the Board's intent for the timeframe in which the work is to be completed, and we are proceeding accordingly, as we've shared with you. Please note that doesn't preclude you from voicing your own concerns to your Board member at any time.

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Hope that's helpful. Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow night!

Best,
Kristi

From: <edtw
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3:49 PM
To: 'evelyn spain'
Cc:
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn,

There are a few problems here.

- 1) Did the sub-group quorum realize that the historical basis for the highway names *had no link* on the post card before they voted to accept it? I certainly did not. I have no notes of planners or facilitators calling attention to that fact, or of anyone noting it beforehand. Am I wrong? Perhaps others did and said nothing about it, but I myself did not realize that the post card lacked that information. I only noticed it when I returned home from the Oct. 7 meeting.
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Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

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Cc:
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Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

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Thank you for your patience on this important matter,
Ed Wenzel

PS The “Overview” link should not only be on the post cards, but on the web site as well.

From: Spain, Evelyn

Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 7:36 PM

To: [edtw](#)

Cc:

Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Evening Ed,

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Thank you for offering.

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Thank you,
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Evelyn

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Thank you,
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To: 'Watson, Malcolm'
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public
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Thank you,
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From: Watson, Malcolm<
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM

To: Spain, Evelyn

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public

Engagement Sub-Group Chair Spain and others, In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7, attached are the meeting minutes for your review and comment. Thanks in advance. Please let me know if I have missed something or misrepresented any topics discussed at the meeting.

Malcolm Watson



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Watson, Malcolm; Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Kristi Dooley; Dominguez, Noelle C.; Nissinen, Anna; Geiger, Robin; 'Juliette R Shedd'
Subject: RE: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Thank you, Mr. Watson, for forwarding the messages below. I hope these and other member's messages will be provided to the rest of the Task Force well before the next regular meeting. I await seeing the comments of other TF members..

Thank you, sir.
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 3:30 PM
To: edtw; Spain, Evelyn
Cc:
Subject: RE: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Good afternoon Chair Spain and Mr. Wenzel, Thank you both for following up. It is our sincere intention to remain as transparent as possible as we move through this process. Regarding Mr. Wenzel's email sent to Ms. Dooley on September 14, please refer to the attached document, which compiles the email and text messages we received prior to the meeting on September 20. Mr. Wenzel's email begins on page five and concludes with links directing people to additional information on Lee Highway and supplementary material by Walter Williams on page seven.

Thanks again,
Malcolm Watson
Transportation Planner

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Kristi Dooley
Subject: RE: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Good morning, Ms. Spain,

Thank you for following up on this matter. I have two comments:

One: The BOS is on public record with its opinion and with actions already taken—that Confederate names and memorials are "offensive" and should be changed or removed. I'm sure that the Task Force organizers and facilitators

know this and are steering the Task Force to that end. Facilitator statements made at the subgroup meeting last week confirm this.

Two: In regard to the exclusion of Fairfax Voters from deciding the fate of the names, why is that “out of our scope?” Is our task force not permitted to question the BOS? Is the issue of fairness regarding these names not our concern? Task Force members were led through DEI at our very first meeting, so “fairness” must rate very high with Task Force organizers and facilitators.

I would ask the Chair to stand for fairness, and to go back to the BOS with a strong recommendation that the voters and tax payers of Fairfax County are the ones who ought to decide whether the names of Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway should be changed. The BOS is already on public record with their intolerance and bigotry regarding Confederate names and associations in Fairfax County. Why would this Task Force bow to supervisors who have displayed so much animosity already?

“A country that forgets its past has no future.” Churchill.

Ed Wenzel

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 8:54 AM
To: [edtw](#); Watson, Malcolm
Cc: Kristi Dooley
Subject: Re: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Morning Mr. Wenzel,

I believe the September 14th email was sent out but I am following up with Mr Watson right after I send you this email. I do appreciate your passion and commitment to ensuring the Confederate Names Task Force and as stated earlier, the BOS will accept whatever recommendation we bring to the December 2021 board meeting. In my mind that means they have an open mind and will consider all options.

We will ensure as a unified group that we vote on whatever message the Confederate Names Task Force agrees upon before bringing it to the BOS and public engagement activities. As far as allowing the constituents of Fairfax to vote on this matter , it has already been discussed that this is out of our scope and has been put to rest.

Let me reiterate, moving forward I will ensure we vote on every item, concern, or suggestion made within the CNTF sub committee and full membership groups. This will so ensure have a documented record of decisions made as we move forward.

I have spoken with Mr.Watson and advised him to please share this email chain with the rest of the CNTF.

Thank you,

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 1, 2021, at 6:28 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Ms. Evelyn Spain, Chair,
Confederate Names Task Force

Dear Ms. Spain,

I regret having to bother you again, but you should know that my Sept. 14th e-mail which addressed Lee Highway and other related matters, still has not been disseminated to Task Force members. [See e-mails below and especially the subject e-mail at the bottom.] How are we to communicate information to other members if our messages are held for weeks before being released only days before the next meeting? This severely handicaps TF members and prevents critical information from being disseminated in a timely fashion. Please see what's holding up distribution of my e-mail which contains six links to the history of Lee Highway and Gen. R.E. Lee, and four links to columns by Walter E. Washington that are relevant to this matter. TF members should have seen this information long ago.

In regard to the Sept. 28 subgroup meeting, there were two statements made by the facilitators that I found disturbing. First, that the mission of this task force is "not to educate," and secondly, that they want us to "move away from the past and toward the future." "What do we want today?" as one asked. Those statements confirm what has been obvious to me since the beginning—that Task Force organizers and facilitators are there to lead this group in the direction of name changes. I have commented before that the BOS wants these highway names changed, just as they do any name or memorial that reflects or acknowledges Confederate heritage in this county. We have been assured at our meetings that the BOS has made no decisions about the highway names, but that's not believable. Supervisor's statements, past actions, correspondence, media coverage, and TF documents are clear about what the BOS wants. I believe that this Task Force was conceived to provide political cover for a decision that has already been made and that's why we are being led "away from the past (Civil War heritage) and toward the future"—whatever that means. However, we can be assured that the BOS' vision for Fairfax does not include reminders of the Civil War, especially any Confederate reminders.

At our first meeting in August, we heard a lecture about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion—the message being (I suppose) that there is something wrong with names that reflect our Civil War past, at least in the minds of some. I have commented that "diversity" means a multiplicity, a variety, more than one, etc. Yet, in this case, the BOS seeks to erase diversity, just as they did with the perfectly fine Marr monument which stood beside the street where the first action of the war occurred. Why? Because *Marr was a Confederate*, period. I call that bigotry and intolerance. That monument wasn't even "to" Capt. Marr. The inscription only gave a bearing and distance to where his body was found—the first Confederate to die in action in the war. Nothing else. The removal of that landmark monument and the two cannon was a disgraceful gesture to "wokeness" that robbed Fairfax County and Fairfax City of a 116-year-old historical monument and an important remembrance of Civil War heritage in Fairfax.

I support the diverse groups who populate Fairfax County today, as does everyone else I know. However, as a native of this area, I am conscious of the Confederate history in a county that voted overwhelmingly for secession. I am also well acquainted with the two monuments to Union Generals Kearny and Stevens who were killed in the Battle of Ox Hill near Rt. 50. No one has suggested that those two monuments be removed or be hidden in a warehouse, or be "contextualized." The fact that Union monuments exist at all in this county, is a tribute to John Ballard, a former Confederate cavalryman (of Mosby's command) who owned the farm where the battle was fought. It was Ballard and his wife, Mary, who gave the land to Union soldiers so they could erect monuments to their fallen generals. And it was Ballard who led the effort to put up the monument beside Main Street in Fairfax

marking Marr's death in the first action of the war (Fairfax C. H. Raid, June 1, 1861). While Fairfax County brags that we are the "Gateway to America's Heritage," the current BOS has proven that they only care about certain heritage, and have been quick to dismiss and condemn Confederate heritage for which, except for slavery, they show zero understanding.

I am for everyone's heritage. If names or reminders are needed to reflect other heritage in Fairfax, I think you will find interested parties in local groups, including myself, who would look favorably on such an endeavor. Reminders of people who were enslaved on farms in the county, or their descendants who accomplished so much during the Jim Crow era would certainly be worthy of recognition. We do have a "diverse" heritage here and it covers a broad spectrum. That said, the Civil War dominates the history of Virginia and of Fairfax, and it was the defining event in the history of America. The death toll was staggering. With a population of only 31 million people in both the north and south, 750,000 perished (including civilians).

The names Lee highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway in Fairfax are an important part of our Civil War heritage. They give Fairfax a sense of place in northern Virginia where so much of the war occurred, and they distinguish us from other counties in the Washington area. Fairfax is the place where Lee and Jackson brought the war to the doorstep of Washington, when only 90 days before, the Federal army was at the gates of Richmond. Such was the tactical genius of Lee and Jackson (and Longstreet), that in three months' time they were able to defeat two Union armies and transfer the war from Richmond to Fairfax County (Ox Hill) in the shadow of the Union capitol dome. Lee and Jackson were Virginia heroes and are forever linked in Confederate memory. Even foes and military officers abroad praised their military tactics and what they accomplished with inferior numbers. No matter their human faults, Lee and Jackson will always command respect as American military leaders of the highest caliber.

I have also commented that "inclusion," as in DEI, is not what this TF is about. The Confederate Names Task Force is actually about "exclusion." The Task Force, despite its planned "community engagement" with post cards, social media, websites, hash tags, chambers of commerce, and other such targets, will come up short and will exclude hundreds of thousands of Fairfax voters from having any say in whether or not these century-old highway names are removed. I have mentioned twice before that no 30 hand-picked people, nor the BOS itself, should have any right to change the names of primary highways without a voter referendum. To be "fair"—as I'm certain we all believe we are—Fairfax voters should be included in any decision of this magnitude. But, perhaps the BOS does not trust the voters to make the "correct" decision? I think any plan that excludes a referendum is designed to usher name changes through the bureaucratic system before anyone can stop it. And that's why the BOS will not rescind its artificial December deadline.

On a final note, the History Commission report has been praised as the last word on Confederate names. However, there are some errors and distortions in that document and the TF should be careful what it cites.

I hope you can disseminate my Sept. 14th e-mail before any more time passes. (See bottom of this thread.) Also, please make sure that this e-mail is forwarded to members as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 11:07 AM

To: 'Watson, Malcolm'
Cc: 'Spain, Evelyn' ; 'Kristi Dooley'
Subject: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14

Mr. Watson,

Concerning the missing e-mail (below, Sept. 14) that was not included in the packet sent out prior to our Sept. 20 meeting—when do you anticipate that TF members will see it? Waiting until a few days before the next meeting (Oct. 11) is not good. That e-mail information (including 10 relevant links) should have been seen and read prior to the last regular meeting. It was unfortunate that it was not in the packet. The sooner that members receive it the better.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 3:06 PM
To: 'Spain, Evelyn'
Subject: RE:

Thanks you, Ms. Spain. Looking forward to tonight's meeting.

Regards,
Ed Wenzel

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2021 7:03 PM
To: [edtw](#)
Cc: Watson, Malcolm; Kristi Dooley

Subject: Re:

Dear Mr. Wendell,

Thank you for notifying us that one of your emails is missing. I will check in with Malcom first thing Monday morning to ensure he sends out your Sept 14th email. Please be assured that it is our intention to remain transparent throughout the Confederate Names Task Force process.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Sep 18, 2021, at 2:17 PM, [edtw](#) wrote:

Ms. Evelyn Spain,
Chair, Confederate Names Task Force

Dear Ms. Spain,

I want to call your attention to the e-mails I sent to Ms. Dooley this past week (Sept. 14 and 16) relative to the topics being considered by the TF. In the Messages and Tweets attachment received from Mr. Watson yesterday, I noticed that my Sept. 14 message is missing. That e-mail concerned the meeting last Monday (Sept. 13) and included five links to important Lee Highway information, four links to pertinent columns by Walter E. Williams, and a link to a book review and comments on the Letters and Recollections of R.E. Lee as published by his son in 1904.

The Lee Highway information is critical for TF understanding of why the road was so named, and Walter Williams' columns throw light on Historical Ignorance, Abraham Lincoln, Black history/White Guilt, and DEI "Nonsense" as he terms it. In addition, I included the Lee material as necessary in view of the current narrative that he fought to destroy the U. S. Government, which is not true. Please see that my email of Sept 14 is provided to the TF for their scrutiny.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS I assume that Messages, Tweets, or other communications by TF members to staff will be published in the final report. Is that correct? I want to be certain that pertinent material and other concerns are not excluded from the published report, or from public knowledge. Thanks again.

From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 11:25 PM

To: 'Kristi Dooley'

Subject: Confederate Names and R.E. Lee, Recollections and Letters etc.

Hi Kristi,

At the meeting last night a number of statements were made, including by the guest speaker, that I took some exception to. The format of the meetings is such that one cannot unmute and interject. That would be discourteous to the person speaking. So one must wait, and one person should not monopolize time that has to be shared by all. Also, if I pick up on a point to make, that does not mean that I can formulate the words for a question or comment immediately. So even if I could interject a comment, the time for it passes. I guess I'm not so good at notetaking or articulating thoughts on the fly.

I also perceive that the planners of the agenda assume that most people generally do not know about Lost Cause efforts to minimize slavery, or the exalting of the war effort and the top generals. That may be true for some, but

for those who have studied the war, we have listened to countless lectures over the years and read about most aspects of CW history beyond the battles, i.e.: the legality of secession, state sovereignty and loyalty, Reconstruction, KKK violence, Jubal Early's cabal etc.

Following Reconstruction, white political corruption was (I believe) a direct reaction to the Radical Republicans and the Union Leagues who swarmed the region after the war and helped elect blacks to power at state and local levels—all to ensure a permanent black Republican political base while ex-Confederates were disenfranchised. When one considers Republican efforts to divide freedmen from former masters and whites, does it not throw some light on possible reasons for violence and black voting restrictions as whites corruptly regained power? As evil as it was, one has to look beyond the obvious. For every action, there is a reaction. If you turn a 240-year-old culture and way of life upside-down by force and destruction, and kill 750,000 people while you're at it, wouldn't you expect to encounter bitter resentment that might lead to bad consequences? Could it have been otherwise? Yes, I think it could have.

Below is a link to a "Goodreads" review of a republished *Recollections and Letters of General Robert E. Lee* by his youngest son, Capt. R.E. Lee Jr. in 1904. Be sure to read the entirety of readers comments afterward. I forward this link to counter the view that Lee was simply a "traitor" and a "slaveowner" who wanted to "destroy" the United States. I heard something similar said last night about Lee and Stonewall Jackson. It's the current media narrative which Dr. Tarter knows is not true. <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11061428-recollections-and-letters-of-general-robert-e-lee>

As I mentioned, **Lee Highway** was one of a hundred or more named "Auto Trails" that "good roads" organizations were advocating for in the early 20th century. The nation's roads at that time were little better than they were during the Civil War. The roads were muddy, rutted obstacles at the dawn of the automobile age. When Model T Fords appeared in 1908, they were designed to navigate these horrible roads, but it was obvious to businessmen and local boosters that improved roads were desperately needed. The Great War in Europe and a young army officer named Dwight Eisenhower also figured in the great American road story and the linking together of transcontinental routes under various names.

The links below provide historical context. I think it's obvious that the name "Lee Highway" did not arise from any Jim Crow intention to intimidate or insult black people, or to project "white supremacy." In reality, Lee's name was obvious for a Southern transcontinental route just as the Lincoln Highway was a shoo-in for a Northern route. Remember, this is the 50th Anniversary period and veterans of both sides are still living and Lee was a Southern hero. The background below on **Lee Highway** and the transcontinental road movement should have been a priority for task force agenda planners rather than One Fairfax, DEI, and Mr. Tarter's take on the Lost Cause and white superiority.

Lee Highway

<https://americanroads.us/autotrails/leehighway.html>

Dr. S.M. Johnson, A Dreamer of Dreams. FHA Highway History, The Lee Highway, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Lee Boulevard

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/johnson.cfm>

Zero Milestone in Washington D.C.

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/zero.cfm>

Photo Gallery Along Lee Highway (Mid-1920s)

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/johngal2.cfm>

Lee Highway, Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Highway

Added material:

The links below are columns by the late Walter E. Williams, professor of Economics at GMU. Williams was one of the best thinkers and commentators in the business. A great mind and a clear, succinct writer.

Historical Ignorance of Confederate Generals, 7/22/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/72310-historical-ignorance-and-confederate-generals-2020-07-22>

Abraham Lincoln, 2/20/13

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/16820-abraham-lincoln-2013-02-20>

Insults to Black History, 6/24/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/71596-insults-to-black-history-2020-06-24>

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Nonsense, 9/2/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/73106-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-nonsense-2020-09-02>

Please review the links above and see if you don't think that the task force would benefit from this additional information. Having heard Dr. Tarter's views, I think they would appreciate it. Please forward to each member.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 1:47 PM
To: Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; Kristi Dooley; 'Juliette R Shedd'
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn,

Sorry for the delay. Yes, I am very happy that the TF has decided to mail post cards to County residences. That's good. And I compliment you and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the "Highway Overviews" which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the "overview info" should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

Also, on the "Overview" sheet, under "Highway Overviews," in the next line, after each highway's name, I suggest adding the words "How this highway got its name." That will make it clear what the "Overview" is about.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS My concerns remain about the BOS motivation on these names. We all know what they did last year (which in my view was absolutely disgraceful), and what they want recommended on these names. I hope and pray that the uniqueness of Fairfax County's Civil War heritage is not further erased by guilt and politics-driven wokeness. Every locality has a "sense of place" and the Civil War put a massive stamp on Fairfax County. It is our history and it should not be subjected to cultural cleansing. As I said last night, I would happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park for anyone who might be interested.

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 10:13 AM
To: edtw
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

I believe we addressed this last evening during our sub committee meeting. Please let me know if you have any additional concerns around the USPS item.

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 7, 2021, at 9:33 AM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Mr. Watson,

I received no reply yesterday to my query about the Sub-Group minutes not containing an important point of information: That the Task Force *will not utilize* the USPS to provide information to all Fairfax County households regarding changing the highway names. Instead, other selective means will be used for sampling purposes, but nothing will be targeted at the voters/taxpayers. The minutes should reflect that the Task Force will not use the USPS to contact voters on this important matter.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:14 AM

To: 'Watson, Malcolm'

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for forwarding the minutes of the Sub-Group meeting last week. I noticed there is one point missing from those minutes: I believe I asked whether the public survey would be mailed to all households in Fairfax County (via USPS) in order to give all voters and taxpayers the opportunity to respond to the proposed highway name changes. I noted that the response to this question was negative and that other means of communication were planned such as Supervisor's on-line newsletters, mailouts of postcards to the business community nearest the highways, County websites, chambers of commerce, social media (someone said millennials get their information there), "hashtags," and probably other means which I have forgotten. In any event, those means of outreach are limited and do not include the vast majority of Fairfax citizens.

I firmly believe that Fairfax voters and taxpayers should decide this name issue on a ballot referendum. That's the only "fair" way to decide whether or not to change the names of two primary highways that have existed here for 100 years— names that reflect the Civil War heritage of Fairfax County and make us unique in the Washington area. I've raised this issue several times before but no one seems interested in the logic of it. I think I understand why. The BOS does not want voters weighing in because they might reject the costly and ideologically driven agenda and cast their votes to keep the existing names. And the BOS wants those names and history erased. So no referendum, and they appoint a task force guided by paid contract facilitators to steer us toward name changes. For the BOS, that's much easier to accomplish than convincing hundreds of thousands of taxpayers and voters to agree with their anti-heritage and anti-Civil War name hysteria.

I strongly urge the task force to halt the planned path we are on and inform the BOS that in fairness to all the people of Fairfax, they should call a voter referendum to decide this issue. Any other device that's used to effect name changes is merely a way of avoiding the common sense and wisdom of the

voters. No thirty individuals on a “task force” should decide for 1.2 million residents, and no BOS should arbitrarily change those names without voter agreement.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm

Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM

To: Spain, Evelyn

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group Chair Spain and others, In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7, attached are the meeting minutes for your review and comment. Thanks in advance. Please let me know if I have missed something or misrepresented any topics discussed at the meeting.

Malcolm Watson



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

Subject: FW: Comments on Renaming Lee Highway | Confederate Names Task Force

From: S Chandra

Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 5:33 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force <DOTConfederateNamesTaskForce@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Subject: Comments on Renaming Lee Highway | Confederate Names Task Force

Dear Task Force Members,

With regards to the review of names of Lee Highway (U.S. Route 29) and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (U.S. Route 50), I would like to bring following information to your notice:

a) Although Robert E. Lee was a confederate general, after the civil war he played a crucial role in restoring peace [1]. He was advised and encouraged to not surrender and continue the fight in a gorilla war manner. He was very much capable and resourceful to do it but at that moment he thought like an American and decided not to continue the fight keeping America above all. In the words of Jay Winik, the famous historian and author - "by this one momentous decision, he spared the country from the divisive guerilla warfare that surely would have followed." [2]

It was the decision by political leaders of that era that started the civil war. Robert E. Lee was only following orders. But when his turn came to make a key decision, he decided in favor of America.

b) After the civil war, he advised a confederate widow who was full of animosity towards North to rise above any sectional feeling and raise the kids as Americans. As quoted by Edward Lee Childe in his book *The Life and Campaigns of General Lee (1875)*, p. 331, Lee told the widow "Madam, don't bring up your sons to detest the United States Government. Recollect that we form but one country, now. Abandon all these local animosities, and make your sons Americans." [3]

c) According to Emory Thomas, a renowned History Professor Emeritus at the University of Georgia and noted scholar of the American Civil War Robert E. Lee played an instrumental role in the Mexican-American war (1846-1848) which resulted in the Westward expansion of the United States.[4]

The civil war and the cause behind it is a blot in American history. Yet by focusing on only one aspect of Robert E. Lee (General of the Confederate Army) and ignoring his other important contributions to America during pre and post civil war period, we may be inadvertently showing the same intolerance and hatred which caused the civil war.

Sources:

1. <https://www.nps.gov/arho/learn/historyculture/lee-s-work-for-reunification.htm>
2. April 1865, Book by Jay Winik
3. *The Life and Campaigns of General Lee (1875)* by Edward Lee Childe, p. 331.
4. Thomas, Emory M. (1997). *Robert E. Lee*. W. W. Norton & Co. ISBN 978-0-393-31631-5.

Watson, Malcolm

From: Evelyn Spain
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:52 AM
To: Kristi Dooley
Cc: edtw Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; JulietteR Shedd
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

I agree with with everything stated in Kristi's email. I stand by the decisions that have been voted on by the members of CNTF Subcommittee, the deadline set by the BOS and confirm all CNTF subcommittee correspondence has been shared by Malcolm.

Thank you for sharing thoughts.

Chair Spain

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 10, 2021, at 8:58 PM, kristi dooley :

Hi Ed,

What the subgroup agreed to was the one page sheet that Blake and Shirley worked on and the that the subgroup approved (the Task Force purpose and historical context of the highway names) being at the beginning of the survey's online version, as well as on the front page of the paper version of the survey, as a handout at the public feedback meetings, and as information that will be placed on the web site as well. Since the postcard being sent countywide links all county residents to the web site where this information is already included, there was no other conversation about a need for any additional link. Anyone who goes to the link on the postcard will already find that information there. Hopefully that addresses your concerns.

With respect to the timing of the process, we are very clear with the Board's intent for the timeframe in which the work is to be completed, and we are proceeding accordingly, as we've shared with you. Please note that doesn't preclude you from voicing your own concerns to your Board member at any time.

To my knowledge, we have not received any other emails from Task Force members with additional information or requests since our last meeting on September 20 (other than a few emails coordinating aspects of the subgroup's work). I think Malcolm has sent out to the full Task Force your emails that have detailed your concerns about timing and any other content-related issues. Just wanted to put you at ease with respect to that. You aren't missing any other correspondence from other TF members because there hasn't been any.

Hope that's helpful. Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow night!

Best,
Kristi

From: <edtw

Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3:49 PM**To:** 'evelyn spain'

Cc: "'Watson, Malcolm'

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn,

There are a few problems here.

- 1) Did the sub-group quorum realize that the historical basis for the highway names *had no link* on the post card before they voted to accept it? I certainly did not. I have no notes of planners or facilitators calling attention to that fact, or of anyone noting it beforehand. Am I wrong? Perhaps others did and said nothing about it, but I myself did not realize that the post card lacked that information. I only noticed it when I returned home from the Oct. 7 meeting.
- 2) This process is being rushed along with much of the work being done behind the scenes. The prepared material is then brought forth at our meetings with little time for the rest of us to think about what we are looking at, or, if there are other factors that should be considered.
- 3) Yes, I have raised questions about the time-line before, and have noted the lack of interest in extending the time period. Perhaps TF organizers are not permitted to push back against the BOS. Indeed this process is like a freight train going down the track, and no delays are permitted.
- 4) Among the meeting materials for Monday Oct. 11 (sent late Friday, Oct. 8) I find no attachment containing the e-mails and messages exchanged between members, staff, and facilitators since our last full meeting on September 20. That's a three week stretch in which TF members remain uninformed and out of the loop on important points raised between myself and the Chair, organizers, and facilitators. Where are those messages? Will the other TF members see them? And where are their messages? I assume that I am not the only one with points to make, and that others are having input too. I'd appreciate knowing their views as well.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: evelyn spain

Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:21 AM

To: edtw

Cc:

Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

Thank you for your feedback. The website will contain the “ Overview” link. This will allow the reader to click on the link and go directly to the overview information. Please note the quorum of subcommittee members voted on accepting the postcard as it currently stands.

We have addressed the timeline concerns numerous times, both in the CNTF meetings and with the BOS. Our commitment to meeting the deadline as stated in the initial scope remains the same.

Best,

Evelyn

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 8:53 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Yes, good evening Evelyn,

It took me a while to realize that the card did not include a link to background on the highway names. When the post card was first presented on Sept. 28, the task force did not intend it to be mailed to all residences. I then raised the issue about excluding voters and taxpayers. Now that it will be mailed to all residences (as per last night), the reasons for including the “Highway Overviews” are critical for informed decision making. Surely there is space on the card for another line with a link. That time is short is understood. However, my suggestion that the task force inform the BOS that their deadline should be extended was deemed not possible. Why, I don’t know. Sometimes plans have to be changed.

I do know that the BOS wants this business wrapped up asap so they can take their vote. But the pace at which the process is moving is almost dizzying. I have a blitz of paper here and TF staff and facilitators are working overtime to produce more. Frankly, I think it would be prudent to slow down the train and give us time to think things through—like what should go on the postcards—not hasten the train onward with safety checks not made. We need time to think and consider, and not be rushed to the finish line.

Thank you for your patience on this important matter,
Ed Wenzel

PS The “Overview” link should not only be on the post cards, but on the web site as well.

From: Spain, Evelyn

Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 7:36 PM

To: [edtw](#)

Cc:

Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Evening Ed,

Thank you so much for the compliment.

I don't recall that the postcard was ever going to include a link to the "Highway Overviews". Understanding how strongly you feel that this information needs to be shared with the public, you can ask if its' possible to put it on the website provided the Task Force agrees. Please remember, we are up against a tight deadline and it was strongly stated that changes unless it's a grave error, can not be made at this late stage.

By all means please feel free to share your concerns during the meeting on Monday. Please also let the group know you are happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Dr Shedd and I rode by there Thursday night on the way home from our meeting.

Thank you for offering.

Best,

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 1:46 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Good afternoon Evelyn,
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and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the “Highway Overviews” which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the “overview info” should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

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To: [edtw](#)
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

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I believe we addressed this last evening during our sub committee meeting. Please let me know if you have any additional concerns around the USPS item.

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 7, 2021, at 9:33 AM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

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Thank you,

Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#) _____

Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:14 AM

To: 'Watson, Malcolm

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public

Engagement Sub-Group

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Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm<
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM

To: Spain, Evelyn

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public

Engagement Sub-Group Chair Spain and others, In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7, attached are the meeting minutes for your review and comment. Thanks in advance. Please let me know if I have missed something or misrepresented any topics discussed at the meeting.

Malcolm Watson



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

From: evelyn spain
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:21
To: Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; Kristi Dooley; Juliette R Shedd
Cc: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group
Subject:

Morning Ed,

Thank you for your feedback. The website will contain the “ Overview” link. This will allow the reader to click on the link and go directly to the overview information. Please note the quorum of subcommittee members voted on accepting the postcard as it currently stands.

We have addressed the timeline concerns numerous times, both in the CNTF meetings and with the BOS. Our commitment to meeting the deadline as stated in the initial scope remains the same.

Best,

Evelyn

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 8:53 PM, edtw wrote:

Yes, good evening Evelyn,

It took me a while to realize that the card did not include a link to background on the highway names. When the post card was first presented on Sept. 28, the task force did not intend it to be mailed to all residences. I then raised the issue about excluding voters and taxpayers. Now that it will be mailed to all residences (as per last night), the reasons for including the “Highway Overviews” are critical for informed decision making. Surely there is space on the card for another line with a link. That time is short is understood. However, my suggestion that the task force inform the BOS that their deadline should be extended was deemed not possible. Why, I don’t know. Sometimes plans have to be changed.

I do know that the BOS wants this business wrapped up asap so they can take their vote. But the pace at which the process is moving is almost dizzying. I have a blitz of paper here and TF staff and facilitators are working overtime to produce more. Frankly, I think it would be prudent to slow down the train and give us time to think things through—like what should go on the postcards—not hasten the train

onward with safety checks not made. We need time to think and consider, and not be rushed to the finish line.

Thank you for your patience on this important matter,
Ed Wenzel

PS The "Overview" link should not only be on the post cards, but on the web site as well.

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From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:14 AM

To: 'Watson, Malcolm'

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

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Thank you,
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From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM
To: Spain, Evelyn
Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

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Malcolm Watson

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 10:36 AM
To: Watson, Malcolm
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for sending the FOIA and meeting links. I have tried to view them but cannot get audio on the Ch 16 video at the 31 minute mark. The video begins with audio, but when I move to 31 minutes, all I get is a circle rotating in the center of the screen with no audio or video motion. Also, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act video does the same thing and it's a 3 hour video. No advancing forward in the video if you knew where to go, which I don't. I don't have the time to watch either video from the beginning. Doesn't anyone know the answer to my question without viewing the video? Isn't there a printed document with table of contents and index that can be forwarded?

Thanks,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 4:14 PM
To: edtw
Cc:
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Wenzel,

Thank you for following up. Regarding your questions about communication guidelines, I've provided the link to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act training video. I've also provided the link to the Confederate Names Task Force website, where you can view the meeting recorded on August 16. At that meeting, Louis Nuzzo, Assistant County Attorney with the Office of the County Attorney for Fairfax County provided the Task Force with an overview of Virginia Freedom of Information Act regulations beginning at the 31 minute mark.

- Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA) training video: https://www.ebmcdn.net/fairfax/fairfax-cable-viewer-cc-r-embed.php?viewnode=2020_VFOIA_cc
- [Confederate Names Task Force | Transportation \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

Thanks again, and please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have additional questions.

Malcolm

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Watson, Malcolm
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

I have a question. We are not supposed to talk/email with more than one TF member at a time to avoid creating a "meeting." But we can e-mail one member and then separately forward that e-mail to another member; or perhaps send to four or five other members if done one by one. That kind of defeats the purpose of the rule, no? Also, while I can't discuss TF business with more than one member at a time, I can discuss my thoughts on the subject, or send comments, to non-Task Force people or friends, correct? Can you please send me a link to the Virginia guidelines/ requirements that govern here?

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 11:56 AM
To:
Subject: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good morning,

Thank you for volunteering for the Public Engagement Sub-Group of the Confederate Names Task Force. If possible, the group should meet twice before the next Task Force meeting, which is scheduled for October 11. Can you please let me know if you're available to meet in person on either Tuesday or Thursday evenings during the weeks of September 27 and October 4?

- Week of September 27: Tuesday 9/28 or Thursday 9/30
- Week of October 4: Tuesday 10/5 or Thursday 10/7

Can you please respond with your availability by tomorrow (Thursday) at 12 PM? We will pass along the meeting details thereafter.

Thank you again, and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Malcolm Watson

Transportation Planner



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:58 PM
To: Watson, Malcolm
Subject: Confederate Names TF. 9/20 meeting

Mr. Watson,

I'm not sure what happened last night with the muted phone connection. My phone was on talk but I was not being heard. I tried to speak during the 4th segment but had to hang up and call you to look into the problem. I then dialed back and got through and made my remarks. I suppose a switch was off somewhere?

I don't believe this TF process is going to work. From the "road map" or schedule, it looks like the path has already been mapped out to lead to a name change. That's what Jeff McKay wants and he is on public record saying so, as is our TF Chair. One TF member said he was under the impression that the only reason for the TF was to change the names, and his impression is valid given supervisors' statements and media reports.

From my correspondence and experience with four supervisors—name changes are what they want. Of course, the BOS can request that the Commonwealth Transportation Board change the names without any recommendation from anyone. My take is that the BOS wants the task force for political cover to help them deflect criticism. That is my view and I believe it is correct.

As for the "Community Engagement Plans" and working with district supervisors to plan "Community briefings," whatever material is assembled for one district must be the same for all districts. And the information must be correct, not false narratives. Last night we heard again that Gen. Lee was a "traitor" who fought to "overthrow the U.S. Government." The facilitator said nothing because she probably didn't know. That narrative about Lee is completely false but it is deeply ingrained in a lot of people who absolutely believe it because they don't understand what really happened. Misinformation cannot be presented as fact to community groups.

Historical Ignorance of Confederate Generals, 7/22/20 <https://patriotpost.us/opinion/72310-historical-ignorance-and-confederate-generals-2020-07-22>

Abraham Lincoln, 2/20/13 <https://patriotpost.us/opinion/16820-abraham-lincoln-2013-02-20>

Regarding name changes or not, it was said that we should do "what the community wants" and defer to the "community's wishes." Note that "the community" does not mean "the voters." Whatever outreach we do is going to exclude hundreds of thousands of Fairfax County voters. A voter referendum is the only way to know public sentiment on this historical name issue. Someone said a referendum was "inappropriate." But why? If the BOS wants to change the names of two primary highways that have been named for a hundred years, why shouldn't voters have a say? The question should be on the ballot. Perhaps the voters are not trusted? It's a fundamental issue of fairness. The TF should recommend a ballot referendum to the BOS. That would take the onus off the TF and the people who really matter would decide. We are only 30 people being asked to decide for 1.2 million Fairfax residents. That's not fair by anyone's standard.

Much was said about being "Welcoming" and "Inclusive," inferring that we can't be if the highway names don't change. That's nonsense. Immigrants are pouring into the County every day and they know zero about the American Civil War. Lee, Jackson, Stuart and Mosby mean nothing to them. They are historical American

road renaming and Colin Powell

AM

Arielle Masters <arielle@imstumped.com>

Mon 10/18/2021 3:11 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



I already answered the survey a day or two ago and don't want to confuse matters by trying to answer it again so I'm emailing you.

Very sad to hear that Colin Powell died today. While he wasn't a civil rights leader exactly, he was a very admirable and competent man who broke barriers. I suggest we name one of the most prominent/longest of the major roads around here that we're renaming, hopefully one that goes straight into DC, for him. He deserves recognition.

If it matters, I'm white.

Thank you for giving this serious consideration.

Reply | **Forward**

Lee Highway name change

LF

Linda Freeman <lmfreeman1959@gmail.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 8:37 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Hello,

I had always thought that Lee Highway was named after Robert E Lee's father, former governor of Virginia and revolutionary patriot, Lighthorse Harry Lee (Harry Lee III).

Worth verification. After all, Leesburg was named after Thomas Lee, Robert E. Lee's Great Grand Uncle.

There were numerous famous Lee's in Virginia.

Linda Freeman
Virginian

Reply | **Forward**

(No subject)

JD

jean dunnigan <jndunni@yahoo.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 8:43 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force

Stop erasing history and learn from it and don't repeat it.

Reply | **Forward**



Change all Confederate names and remove all Confederate monuments

DW

Don Willcox <don.willcox@gmail.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 9:19 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



The Confederate cause was to create an independent country with the sole purpose of protecting the enslavement of Black persons by white persons. Confederates, by definition, were traitors. 670,000 people died in the Slaveholder Rebellion - Confederates were killing US Army members to dissolve the USA to protect the rights of slaveholders.

Its wrong to 'honor' any traitor that attacked and killed so many US soldiers.

--

Donald A. Willcox

Principal

Kresge/Willcox Consulting, LLC

Commercial Real Estate Consulting (est. 1991)

Reply | **Forward**

Confederate names task force

AG

Anna Gnadt <magnadt@msn.com>

Sat 10/16/2021 12:54 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Please do not change the names of our roads (Lee Hwy, Lee-Jackson Mem. Hwy). I do not support any name change. We can't rename every road or structure that someone objects to, nor should we condemn the historical figure for whom they are named by holding them to modern day views or behavioral norms. The historical figures were chosen for their important contributions to society. We cannot erase those contributions and should not attempt to erase their names from our roads.

Don't cave to the "woke" mob.

Sent from my iPad

Reply | **Forward**

Do not change the names keep the names of the roads the same.

BM

Bruce Mahen <bruce.mahen@gmail.com>

Sat 10/16/2021 1:50 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**

Renaming of anything in the public domain related to the former Confederate States of America including streets and highways in Virginia

FC

Floyd Cason <floydcason@msn.com>

Sun 10/17/2021 7:27 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



First, and foremost it is preposterous to believe slavery only applied to Southern states in America. Unless you are willing to replace every American iconic name linked to this nation's history, this is nothing more than phony virtue signaling to the perpetually offended, and overly vocal, and violent segment of our society that will never be satiated irregardless of how much of our taxpayer dollars are wasted in the effort. Just because you can do something, doesn't mean you should. To take them down while simultaneously installing Afrocentric monuments, or names like what was done in Richmond that were not voted on in any public referendum is doing nothing but further dividing us, so stop it already. If it's so popular, why are you not putting it to a vote by the citizenry? It's because you know the public support is not there just like in Charlottesville where Confederate statues were removed when a local 29News public poll proved there was overwhelming public support for them to stay. Stop with the pandering, it's really out of hand at this point. Also understand the political winds will no doubt change, and with it there will no doubt be consequences for these continued irresponsible actions.

Sent on my Virgin Mobile Samsung Galaxy Phone.

Reply | **Forward**

Highway Renaming Fairfax should respect history and leave the names as chosen.

EA

Elizabeth Andrews <ecandrews@verizon.net>

Sun 10/17/2021 8:14 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**

Comment on Confederate highway name change

PB

Paul Bjarnason <paul.bjarnason@gmail.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 8:31 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Dear Board of Supervisors and Name Change Task Force –

My comments are:

1 – Time is valuable, so I wish we could spend our time on something more important. We have all these smart people spending hundreds of hours on this issue. I think there are issues of greater importance and I trust that you know what they are.

2 – Cost should be a consideration – what will it cost to change all the highway signs, maps, brochures and stationery? Who will pay for this?

3 – Name changes will sow confusion, unnecessary confusion.

Thank you.

Paul Bjarnason
4712 Montgomery Street
Annandale, VA 22003
703.627.1324

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Reply | **Forward**

Changing names of Lee Hwy., etc

JD

jean dunnigan <jndunni@yahoo.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 8:41 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force

Stop erasing history. Learn from it and don't repeat it.

Reply | **Forward**



Road renaming

BD

Brian Deckert <deck314@mac.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 8:49 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



I fully support renaming the roads in Fairfax city to remove Confederate references. In addition to Lee Highway, Picket Road and Old Picket Road should be renamed.

Regards,

Brian Deckert
3421 White Oak Ct
Fairfax, VA 22030

Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**

Please keep Lee Highway name

CD

Christopher Dietz <bigtig1165@gmail.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 10:26 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Please stop wasting your and our time and money on changing names of highways and roads. There have to be a hundred more important things you can focus your time and OUR money on.

Keep Lee Highway, Lee Highway.

Thank you.

Very Respectfully,

Chris Dietz

(703) 862-1331

<https://www.messenger.com/t/letsgetfitwthchris>

Reply | **Forward**

Stop removing our heritage

SB

Shayne Berlo <shayneberlo@hotmail.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 10:41 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force

Leave our history and heritage alone.

Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**



Re: Why don't you do a poll before you change Confederate names?

WP

Wayne Lutton, Ph.D. <waynelutton@gmail.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 10:45 PM

To: Taylor <taylor@aya.yale.edu>

Cc: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



I vote yes. Good letter.

On Thu, Oct 14, 2021 at 4:48 PM Taylor <taylor@aya.yale.edu> wrote:

Dear Confederate Names Task Force,

I understand the desire to rename things, but why don't you let the voters decide? Isn't that what democracy is for?

Polling is not expensive. Rather than spending months talking to probably unrepresentative people, please put the question to a vote.

What possible objections can you have to such a solution?

Sincerely yours,
Samuel Taylor
2705 Green Holly Springs Court, Oakton, VA 22124
703 716-0930

Reply | **Reply all** | **Forward**

Survey to Change Names of Highways

RS

Rita Semenov <ritaseme@msn.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 12:16 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Hi and thank you for addressing this issue!

Yes, I'm thrilled, please DO change the names of Lee, Lee-Jackson, Mosby highways, and others named for Confederate generals. High time to quit glorifying these proponents of a culture of racism and slavery.

While we're on the subject, let's also change the sad and gruesome name of "Gallows Road" to something that we could be more proud of.

Thanks again and best wishes,

Rita Semenov
6807 Kincaid Ave
Falls Church, VA 22042
703-618-0351

Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**

Kearny-Stevens Memorial Highway

CT

Chad Tucker <chadetucker@gmail.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 12:26 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Dear Task Force Members,

In July of 2020, I wrote to my Virginia Delegate and State Senator recommending Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway be renamed to **Kearny-Stevens Memorial Highway**, for the reasons that follow. Both Senator Marsden and Delegate Bulova wrote back in support of this suggestion.

Lee and Jackson were historically connected to this stretch of road—as villains—and I suggest we should instead honor the heroes of the same story.

After the U.S. Army's defeat at the Second Battle of Bull Run, Lee directed Jackson to flank the Union position, marching down Little River Turnpike (now the stretch of US-50 in question) to cut off the U.S. Army's retreat to our nation's Capital. Had the maneuver been successful, the C.S.A. could have captured Washington, D.C.

On September 1, 1862, at the Battle of Chantilly (also called the Battle of Ox Hill), a U.S. Army force, outnumbered more than 3-to-1, held off Jackson's flanking maneuver in the area near what is now Fair Oaks Mall, giving the rest of the Union army time to withdraw to the defense of Washington. During this action, both U.S. Army major generals involved, Phillip Kearny and Isaac Stevens, were killed while attacking C.S.A positions.

I encourage you to visit Ox Hill Battlefield Park (website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ox-hill>), maintained by the Fairfax County Parks Authority at West Ox Road and Monument Drive in the Fair Lakes area, which holds cenotaphs to both Kearny and Stevens. More importantly, I encourage you to rename that stretch of US-50 as the "**Kearny-Stevens Memorial Highway**," to honor the memory of those men who died there defending our country from the traitorous assaults of Lee and Jackson.

This renaming would preserve the history of the area, while putting our county on the right side of it.

Best,

Chad Tucker
11422 Tiger Lily Lane, Fairfax VA 22030
(240) 273-8922
chadetucker@gmail.com

Confederate Names Task Force

H

hologram@cox.net

Fri 10/15/2021 2:47 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



To Whom it may concern,

I have lived in Fairfax Virginia since 1994.

I do NOT want the names of Lee Highway or Lee Jackson Memorial Highway to change.

Sincerely,

Laura Schuberg

Reply | **Forward**

Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy Name

DH

Danny Halim <dhalim76@gmail.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 4:11 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Task Force members,

Please don't waste taxpayers money and resources to change road names.

The road name has been around for awhile, it has become our landmark, our reference for direction/navigation, and most of us do not associate the road name with the US history.

Focus the effort, resources, and money to clean up the Lee Jackson Memorial Highway:

- clean up the trash, beautify our roads
- prevent homeless beggars (they look healthy and capable to work) to hang around the traffic lights - give them work to clean the road instead
- provide better pedestrian facilities

Every minute you spend to meet about this topic can be used to make improvements instead!

Danny Halim
+1 (703) 980-5192

Reply | **Forward**

Lee-Jackson Highway renaming

DW

Diane Williams <dianewms@aol.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 5:01 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



No one will probably buy this, but, rather than rename Lee-Jackson highway, REDEDICATE it to these notable Virginians instead.

Richard Henry Lee: an American statesman and Founding Father from Virginia, best known for the June 1776 Lee Resolution, the motion in the Second Continental Congress calling for the colonies' independence from Great Britain leading to the United States Declaration of Independence, which he signed.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_family>

Congressman John George Jackson from Clarksburg (then Virginia prior to the Civil War):

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_G._Jackson_\(politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_G._Jackson_(politician))

John George Jackson is my 4th great grandfather and brother-in-law to President James and Dolly Madison.

Diane Williams
7478 Zanuck Ct.
Annandale, VA 22003

Reply | Forward

Fw: Confederate Names Task Force

ES

Eric Stewart <edubstew@yahoo.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 10:33 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Eric Stewart" <edubstew@yahoo.com>

To: "DOTInfo@fairfaxcounty.gov" <DOTInfo@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Sent: Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 7:29 AM

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force

Good Morning,

My name is Eric Stewart I live in Mason Neck Virginia. I have lived in Virginia for all 36 years of my life born and raised. I hope this email reaches the correct people. I just want my opposition to the changing of these names to be known. General Robert E. Lee and General Stonewall Jackson are well deserving to keep the roads named after them. They were honorable men, Christian men, and exceptional Virginia's. Please don't fall to the winds of change, don't change names for change sake.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Reply | Forward

From a long time Virginia Resident

IH

Ingrid Hohlfelder <rsingrid@me.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 11:12 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



History is history leave our history alone. Quit taking down statues and renaming schools and roads.

I weep for my grandchildren.

Thank you for allowing our feedback.

Ingrid Hohlfelder
41915 Quickstep Pl
Aldie Va. 20105

703/939-4174

Reply | **Forward**

Renaming of Confederacy related highways

KK

Kevin Kilcoyne <kwkilcoyne@icloud.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 11:19 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Task Force members,

As can be seen from the large amount of renaming efforts currently underway, it is neither a quick nor inexpensive effort. With this in mind, consideration should be given to a policy of choosing names that do not use the name of a person, living or dead. The likelihood is that at some point in time some human character defect will emerge and calls for renaming will again begin. One need only consider recent examples such as Bill Cosby to reinforce the point.

Respectfully submitted.

Kevin Kilcoyne

Sent from my iPad

Reply | **Forward**

Dont change highway names

G

ghog36 <ghog36@aol.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 11:34 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Why do you ask for feedback. You will do what you want.

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

Reply | **Forward**

Lee Highway name change

AM

allen mears <allen.mears@cox.net>

Fri 10/15/2021 12:32 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Good morning:

My ancestors fought on both sides in the Civil War; infantry soldiers with the Union and navy sailors in the confederacy. I see no reason to change the name of Lee Highway.

Sincerely,

Cdr. Allen Mears
USN (Retired)
1419 Buena Vista Avenue
McLean, VA 22101
703-847-9079



[Reply](#) | [Forward](#)

Renaming Lee Highway

JR

John Rickards <jdrickards@cox.net>

Fri 10/15/2021 12:54 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Quit trying to erase history. Learn from it not rewrite it. It's no wonder our youth have no knowledge of our countries history when it is being erased over political correctness.

John Rickards

Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**

CHANGING THE NAME OF 29/50

DS

Denise Stalaker <dstalaker@fhfurr.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 1:19 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



PLEASE FIND SOMETHING BETTER TO SPEND YOUR TIME AND OUR HARD WORKING TAX PAYERS MONEY ON! HOW ABOUT PARKS AND RECREATION? FIRST RESPONDERS?

Thank you,

| Denise Stalaker

Reply | **Forward**

Renaming Highways

BT

Bob thompson <wthrspn2000@yahoo.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 1:40 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force

Please stop!

Thank you,
BThompson

Reply | **Forward**



Watson, Malcolm

To: Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Dominguez, Noelle C.; Nissinen, Anna; Geiger, Robin
Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Comment Received

Chair Spain and others,

I received a call from Mrs. Linda Osbourne and her husband, Lewis. They recently saw the media coverage of Fairfax County's Confederate Names Task Force. She requested that I type the statement below and share it with the Taskforce.

Linda and Lewis Osbourne:

We do not want the name changed. Some of our best friends are descendants of Robert E. Lee. The tearing down of monuments and changing street names is horrifying. One of our friends was offered to store a Lee statue. We're generational Virginians, and we have a long history of church affiliation at Mountain View Methodist Church, which was built in 1888, where our grandparents, other family members, and many veterans lie. Virginia is a beautiful state, and it is not a racist state, and we will not be divided. My great grandfather was the superintendent of schools many years ago. We have one hundred family members that reside in Virginia. And we're split, democrats, republicans, and independent. We also have bi-racial family members. Changing the street names will not change true Virginians. We will not be divided. We are a caring and giving state.

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw1661@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 8:21 AM
To: 'Evelyn Spain'; Kristi Dooley
Cc: Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; 'Juliette R Shedd'
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good morning Evelyn,

Just getting back to you on that bullet point in the September 20 minutes. What I said was something like this: While we heard a lot about One Fairfax, DEI, and Inclusion at our first meeting, this Task Force *is NOT Inclusive*—rather it is *deliberately Exclusive*. We are *deliberately excluding* the voters and taxpayers of Fairfax County. No thirty hand-picked individuals should make recommendations for changing primary highway names because a question like that *should only be on a ballot referendum*.

And the BOS knows it, which is why it created this TF to provide political cover. All the name change efforts have cost hundreds of thousands already and likely millions more and much disruption before it's done. The BOS does not trust its own voters on this matter, as I've said before.

Also, you jumped the gun in correcting me about "Asian-Americans." I didn't appreciate it. I was referencing Korean, Chinese, and Urdu speakers who likely know next to nothing about the U.S. Civil War, or how something as mundane as street names can cause such headaches in 21st century America. They would probably have no opinion about names at all, or could care less. That's all I was trying to say. Concern about political correctness was misplaced. Indeed, why would any immigrant be concerned about what Americans name our highways and subdivision streets? Yet, this TF presumes to think otherwise. In my humble opinion, the entire name issue is political correctness and wokeness.

Given the many comments and concerns I heard last night regarding the wording of the survey questions, it is my view that the rush to get out the survey by October 13 is misplaced. We are not ready for that as Mr. Floyd said at the close of our meeting, and I agree. However, TF planners have said that the survey has no statistical validity, so perhaps unclear language is not that important?? However it is, I think more thought and better wordsmithing would be the best course. We should not cut corners to meet an artificial deadline.

Now, regarding all the assurances that my e-mails had been sent to all members, I found out late yesterday that was not the case as the e-mail below indicates:

From: Watson, Malcolm _____
>**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Edtw1661@gmail.com
Subject: Email Messages

Mr. Wenzel,

We're compiling email messages that came through the Confederate Names Task Force website portal and those correspondences received directly by staff. *I'm reaching out to ensure that you're okay with sharing your email messages with Taskforce members. Please advise. [emphasis added]*

I also learned at last night's meeting that others have had the same e-mail experience. The blackout on information sharing has kept TF members in the dark about other members' concerns and comments. You remember my first e-mail with all the links (Sept. 14th) that I had to repeatedly ask about to get released? Based on the e-mail above, I presume that all TF members' e-mails expressing concerns to the Chair or staff will be sent out shortly.

I know you have a very difficult task and I do appreciate your hard work. But if the voters were permitted to decide (as they rightly should), none of us would have to be doing any of this.

Thank you and very respectfully,
Ed Wenzel

From: edtw1661@gmail.com <edtw1661@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 2:04 PM
To: 'Evelyn Spain'
Cc:
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Thank you, Evelyn. See you tonight.

Ed Wenzel

From: Evelyn Spain <evelynss328@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:52 AM
To: kristi dooley
Cc:
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

I agree with with everything stated in Kristi's email. I stand by the decisions that have been voted on by the members of CNTF Subcommittee, the deadline set by the BOS and confirm all CNTF subcommittee correspondence has been shared by Malcolm.

Thank you for sharing thoughts.

Chair Spain

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 10, 2021, at 8:58 PM, kristi dooley wrote:

Hi Ed,

What the subgroup agreed to was the one page sheet that Blake and Shirley worked on and the that the subgroup approved (the Task Force purpose and historical context of the highway names) being at the beginning of the survey's online version, as well as on the front page of the paper version of the survey, as a handout at the public feedback meetings, and as information that will be placed on the web site as

well. Since the postcard being sent countywide links all county residents to the web site where this information is already included, there was no other conversation about a need for any additional link. Anyone who goes to the link on the postcard will already find that information there. Hopefully that addresses your concerns.

With respect to the timing of the process, we are very clear with the Board's intent for the timeframe in which the work is to be completed, and we are proceeding accordingly, as we've shared with you. Please note that doesn't preclude you from voicing your own concerns to your Board member at any time.

To my knowledge, we have not received any other emails from Task Force members with additional information or requests since our last meeting on September 20 (other than a few emails coordinating aspects of the subgroup's work). I think Malcolm has sent out to the full Task Force your emails that have detailed your concerns about timing and any other content-related issues. Just wanted to put you at ease with respect to that. You aren't missing any other correspondence from other TF members because there hasn't been any.

Hope that's helpful. Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow night!

Best,
Kristi

From: <edtw1661@gmail.com>
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3:49 PM
To: 'evelyn spain' _____
Cc: "" _____
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn, _____

There are a few problems here.

- 1) Did the sub-group quorum realize that the historical basis for the highway names *had no link* on the post card before they voted to accept it? I certainly did not. I have no notes of planners or facilitators calling attention to that fact, or of anyone noting it beforehand. Am I wrong? Perhaps others did and said nothing about it, but I myself did not realize that the post card lacked that information. I only noticed it when I returned home from the Oct. 7 meeting.
- 2) This process is being rushed along with much of the work being done behind the scenes. The prepared material is then brought forth at our meetings with little time for the rest of us to think about what we are looking at, or, if there are other factors that should be considered.
- 3) Yes, I have raised questions about the time-line before, and have noted the lack of interest in extending the time period. Perhaps TF organizers are not permitted to push back against the BOS. Indeed this process is like a freight train going down the track, and no delays are permitted.
- 4) Among the meeting materials for Monday Oct. 11 (sent late Friday, Oct. 8) I find no attachment containing the e-mails and messages exchanged between members, staff, and facilitators since our last full meeting on September 20. That's a three week stretch in which TF members remain uninformed and out of the loop on important points raised

between myself and the Chair, organizers, and facilitators. Where are those messages? Will the other TF members see them? And where are their messages? I assume that I am not the only one with points to make, and that others are having input too. I'd appreciate knowing their views as well.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: evelyn spain _____
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:21 AM
To: edtw1661@gmail.com
Cc: _____
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group _____

Morning Ed, _____

Thank you for your feedback. The website will contain the "Overview" link. This will allow the reader to click on the link and go directly to the overview information. Please note the quorum of subcommittee members voted on accepting the postcard as it currently stands.

We have addressed the timeline concerns numerous times, both in the CNTF meetings and with the BOS. Our commitment to meeting the deadline as stated in the initial scope remains the same.

Best,

Evelyn

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 8:53 PM, edtw1661@gmail.com wrote:

Yes, good evening Evelyn,

It took me a while to realize that the card did not include a link to background on the highway names. When the post card was first presented on Sept. 28, the task force did not intend it to be mailed to all residences. I then raised the issue about excluding voters and taxpayers. Now that it will be mailed to all residences (as per last night), the reasons for including the "Highway Overviews" are critical for informed decision making. Surely there is space on the card for another line with a link. That time is short

is understood. However, my suggestion that the task force inform the BOS that their deadline should be extended was deemed not possible. Why, I don't know. Sometimes plans have to be changed.

I do know that the BOS wants this business wrapped up asap so they can take their vote. But the pace at which the process is moving is almost dizzying. I have a blitz of paper here and TF staff and facilitators are working overtime to produce more. Frankly, I think it would be prudent to slow down the train and give us time to think things through—like what should go on the postcards—not hasten the train onward with safety checks not made. We need time to think and consider, and not be rushed to the finish line.

Thank you for your patience on this important matter,
Ed Wenzel

PS The "Overview" link should not only be on the post cards, but on the web site as well.

From: Spain, Evelyn _____
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 7:36 PM
To: edtw1661@gmail.com
Cc: _____
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Evening Ed, _____

Thank you so much for the compliment.

I don't recall that the postcard was ever going to include a link to the "Highway Overviews". Understanding how strongly you feel that this information needs to be shared with the public, you can ask if its' possible to put it on the website provided the Task Force agrees. Please remember, we are up against a tight deadline and it was strongly stated that changes unless it's a grave error, can not be made at this late stage.

By all means please feel free to share your concerns during the meeting on Monday. Please also let the group know you are happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Dr Shedd and I rode by there Thursday night on the way home from our meeting.

Thank you for offering.

Best,

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 1:46 PM, edtw1661@gmail.com wrote:

Good afternoon Evelyn,

Sorry for the delay. Yes, I am very happy that the TF has decided to mail post cards to County residences. That's good. And I compliment you and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the "Highway Overviews" which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the "overview info" should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

Also, on the "Overview" sheet, under "Highway Overviews," in the next line, after each highway's name, I suggest adding the words "How this highway got its name." That will make it clear what the "Overview" is about.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS My concerns remain about the BOS motivation on these names. We all know what they did last year (which in my view was absolutely disgraceful), and what they want recommended on these names. I hope and pray that the uniqueness of Fairfax County's Civil War heritage is not further erased by guilt and politics-driven wokeness. Every locality has a "sense of place" and the Civil War put a massive stamp on Fairfax County. It is our history and it should not be subjected to cultural cleansing. As I said last night, I would happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park for anyone who might be interested.

From: Spain, Evelyn _____
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 10:13 AM
To: edtw1661@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group
Morning Ed,

I believe we addressed this last evening during our sub committee meeting. Please let me know if you have any additional concerns around the USPS item.

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 7, 2021, at 9:33 AM, edtw1661@gmail.com wrote:

Mr. Watson,
I received no reply yesterday to my query about the Sub-Group minutes not containing an important point of information: That the Task Force *will not utilize* the USPS to provide information to all Fairfax County households regarding changing the highway names. Instead, other selective means will be used for sampling purposes, but nothing will be targeted at the voters/taxpayers. The minutes should reflect that the Task Force will not use the USPS to contact voters on this important matter.
Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: edtw1661@gmail.com <edtw1661@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:14 AM
To: 'Watson, Malcolm

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for forwarding the minutes of the Sub-Group meeting last week. I noticed there is one point missing from those minutes: I believe I asked whether the public survey would be mailed to all households in Fairfax County (via USPS) in order to give all voters and taxpayers the opportunity to respond to the proposed highway name changes. I noted that the response to this question was negative and that other means of communication were planned such as Supervisor's on-line newsletters, mailouts of postcards to the business community nearest the highways, County websites, chambers of commerce, social media (someone said millennials get their information there), "hashtags," and probably other means which I have forgotten. In any event, those means of outreach are limited and do not include the vast majority of Fairfax citizens.

I firmly believe that Fairfax voters and taxpayers should decide this name issue on a ballot referendum. That's the only "fair" way to decide whether or not to change the names of two primary highways that have existed here for 100 years— names that reflect the Civil War heritage of Fairfax County and make us unique in the Washington area. I've raised this issue several times before but no one seems interested in the logic of it. I think I understand why. The BOS does not want voters weighing in because they might reject the costly and ideologically driven agenda and cast their votes to keep the existing names. And the BOS wants those names and history erased. So no referendum, and they appoint a task force guided by paid contract facilitators to steer us toward name changes. For the BOS, that's much easier to accomplish than convincing hundreds of thousands of taxpayers and voters to agree with their anti-heritage and anti-Civil War name hysteria.

I strongly urge the task force to halt the planned path we are on and inform the BOS that in fairness to all the people of Fairfax, they should call a voter referendum to decide this issue. Any other device that's used to effect name changes is merely a way of avoiding the common sense and wisdom of the voters. No thirty individuals on a "task force" should decide for 1.2 million residents, and no BOS should arbitrarily change those names without voter agreement.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM
To: Spain, Evelyn
Subject: - Public

Engagement Sub-Group

Chair Spain and others,

In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7,
attached are the meeting minutes for your review and
comment.

~~Thanks in advance.~~ Please let me know if I have missed
~~something or misrepresented~~ any topics discussed at
the meeting.

Malcolm Watson



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

To my fellow Fairfax patriots on the Confederate Names Task Force,

Friends, I am sending you this letter so my voice may be heard amongst the many concerns expressed during the September 20th meeting. I am confident each of you is a patriotic citizen, and I am sincere in my conclusion each of you wants what is best for Fairfax County and your community. A little about me, I am native Southern white male from a blended race family. Growing up, we opened our home to African exchange students, all of whom I'm still friends with today, and this experience fundamentally shaped my world view. I'm a civilian staff officer for the Headquarters Dept. of the Army, and I fundamentally believe all people are created equal and racism has no place anywhere in the United States.

I agreed to participate on this Task Force because I have pragmatic concerns about changing street names and the unintended consequences to the communities impacted. Based on the data available to us, how do we know if there will be second or third order negative impacts? If even one human life (black, white, or other) is harmed because the GPS in a 911 dispatch hasn't updated, and can't find an accident site on formerly Lee-Jackson HWY, is this worth it? I don't know if this is a problem or not. These are data points we're missing.

Yesterday, when I attempted to raise these concerns, I was silenced abruptly, told “this is not in our purview,” and my concerns were not heard. – THIS WAS WRONG.

Week one, we universally agreed we wanted to be heard. The September 20th meeting discouraged me, and is therefore the reason I am sending you this letter. Months ago, I voiced similar concerns about cost, public safety, and impact to local businesses to Supervisor Walkinshaw, and he invited me to join the task force specifically to provide this perspective (see enclosed email).

I'm concerned how much this will cost because I don't want my taxes to go up at a time when we've all felt inflation and economic strain during the pandemic. This expense was not earmarked in the 2022 budget, and I have genuine concerns about fiscal transparency within the Fairfax County government. I also have honest concerns about the impact on local businesses and residents on both roadways. This will cost them money. Rebranding websites, updating address, and “Lee Highway” is written on shipping orders all over the place. At a time when businesses are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, is this really a good move? What will be the impact to 911 dispatchers? Road names have been changed in Fairfax County before (e.g. Jefferson Davis Highway), and I believe these answers exist and would provide valuable data points for us to make an informed decision whether or not to recommend changing anything to the Board of Supervisors.

At risk of providing too much in one letter, I also want to offer some perspective why Southerners often still see Robert E. Lee as an icon. The institution of slavery was so evil, and the thought of dividing the United States so heinous that Southerners who sacrificed so much—economic ruin and more than ¼ of the male population dead—were desperate for something to be proud of. Placing aside the politics around the war, Generals Lee and Jackson were tactically brilliant and military academies around the world still study their campaigns today. Furthermore, Lee's post-war example made him one of the most important figures in

reunification of the Nation. Many Southerners wanted to continue to fight a gorilla war for years, but he refused, and many followed his example to return to the Union. After the war, Lee also used his influence to encourage peace between the races, expelling white students from Washington College for harassing black citizens of Lexington. To underscore the roll Lee played in reunification of the Nation, in the book *Crucible of Command*, biographer William C. Davis (who is not a Lost Cause proponent) references a movement in New York and Pennsylvania to encourage Ulysses Grant to run for President with Lee as his Vice-Presidential running mate.

Consider also what the Virginia Museum of History & Culture says: “Those who argue that he chose to fight for slavery rather than against it, and that this is all one needs to know about Lee, lose sight of the extent of the sacrifice that he made. His decision was not about defending slavery; it was about doing what he thought was right.”

<https://virginiahistory.org/learn/historical-book/chapter/reconciliation>

You do not have to agree with any of this interpretation of history, but Fairfax County cannot fundamentally be an “Inclusive” society without acknowledging these types of opinions and that there are residents who feel this way. To be very clear, I am referring to honest residents with a different interpretation of history who simultaneously respect the rights of all mankind. I don’t really care about the feelings of racial supremacists because their ignorance negates any reasonably public consideration.

Inclusivity requires us to make room for people of all races, genders, sexual orientations, political leanings, and those who have a different historic or cultural background to our own. Fairfax County’s mantra should be to build new monuments and name new streets to represent everyone, and not to destroy or rename; these actions are divisive and exclude citizens who feel their opinions are not valued. Add more, not less.

It is not my intention to upset anyone, and I’m not an argumentative or heartless person. I love all people, I love my community, and I would not participate in this Task Force were I not convinced of its genuinely good-hearted value. God Bless all of you, and thank you for receiving my thoughts.

Very respectfully,

Robert H. Floyd

Enclosure

From: BraddockBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov,
To: roberthfloyd@aol.com,
Cc: Sally.Kidalov@fairfaxcounty.gov, Frank.Anderson@fairfaxcounty.gov,
Subject: Task Force on Lee Highway and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway
Date: Mon, Mar 1, 2021 5:43 pm

Hello Mr. Floyd,

Hope you're doing well. I'm reaching out because of your interest in the Confederate Names inventory and the county's process for considering the renaming of such sites. As you may be aware, the Board of Supervisors is putting together a task force to discuss the two major roadways identified, Lee Highway and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. As Braddock is one of the districts through which these roads run, we are appointing individuals to the task force. This group will be charged with developing an outreach process for engaging the community, receiving input on whether to change the names, and potentially considering alternate names. If the task force recommends changing the names, it will suggest a short list of names to be incorporated into a community survey. Following this, the Board of Supervisors would hold one or more public hearings and then consider whether it wants to keep the road names the same or change them.

While we can't predict the outcome, I think it is likely that the majority of this task force will be in support of changing the names. That may or may not be your position but based on your interest and the respectable conversations we've had, Supervisor Walkinshaw thought your perspective would be valuable.

If you'd like to participate, please let us know. The time commitment would be roughly one virtual meeting per month for a span of three to six months.

Thanks,

Frank Anderson

Watson, Malcolm

From: Evelyn Spain
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:52 AM
To:
Cc: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Subject:

Morning Ed,

I agree with with everything stated in Kristi's email. I stand by the decisions that have been voted on by the members of CNTF Subcommittee, the deadline set by the BOS and confirm all CNTF subcommittee correspondence has been shared by Malcolm.

Thank you for sharing thoughts.

Chair Spain

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 10, 2021, at 8:58 PM, kristi dooley> wrote:

Hi Ed,

What the subgroup agreed to was the one page sheet that Blake and Shirley worked on and the that the subgroup approved (the Task Force purpose and historical context of the highway names) being at the beginning of the survey's online version, as well as on the front page of the paper version of the survey, as a handout at the public feedback meetings, and as information that will be placed on the web site as well. Since the postcard being sent countywide links all county residents to the web site where this information is already included, there was no other conversation about a need for any additional link. Anyone who goes to the link on the postcard will already find that information there. Hopefully that addresses your concerns.

With respect to the timing of the process, we are very clear with the Board's intent for the timeframe in which the work is to be completed, and we are proceeding accordingly, as we've shared with you. Please note that doesn't preclude you from voicing your own concerns to your Board member at any time.

To my knowledge, we have not received any other emails from Task Force members with additional information or requests since our last meeting on September 20 (other than a few emails coordinating aspects of the subgroup's work). I think Malcolm has sent out to the full Task Force your emails that have detailed your concerns about timing and any other content-related issues. Just wanted to put you at ease with respect to that. You aren't missing any other correspondence from other TF members because there hasn't been any.

Hope that's helpful. Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow night!

Best,
Kristi

From: <edtw
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3:49 PM
To: 'evelyn spain'
Cc:
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn,

There are a few problems here.

- 1) Did the sub-group quorum realize that the historical basis for the highway names *had no link* on the post card before they voted to accept it? I certainly did not. I have no notes of planners or facilitators calling attention to that fact, or of anyone noting it beforehand. Am I wrong? Perhaps others did and said nothing about it, but I myself did not realize that the post card lacked that information. I only noticed it when I returned home from the Oct. 7 meeting.
- 2) This process is being rushed along with much of the work being done behind the scenes. The prepared material is then brought forth at our meetings with little time for the rest of us to think about what we are looking at, or, if there are other factors that should be considered.
- 3) Yes, I have raised questions about the time-line before, and have noted the lack of interest in extending the time period. Perhaps TF organizers are not permitted to push back against the BOS. Indeed this process is like a freight train going down the track, and no delays are permitted.
- 4) Among the meeting materials for Monday Oct. 11 (sent late Friday, Oct. 8) I find no attachment containing the e-mails and messages exchanged between members, staff, and facilitators since our last full meeting on September 20. That's a three week stretch in which TF members remain uninformed and out of the loop on important points raised between myself and the Chair, organizers, and facilitators. Where are those messages? Will the other TF members see them? And where are their messages? I assume that I am not the only one with points to make, and that others are having input too. I'd appreciate knowing their views as well.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: evelyn spain
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:21 AM
To: edtw
Cc:
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

Thank you for your feedback. The website will contain the “ Overview” link. This will allow the reader to click on the link and go directly to the overview information. Please note the quorum of subcommittee members voted on accepting the postcard as it currently stands.

We have addressed the timeline concerns numerous times, both in the CNTF meetings and with the BOS. Our commitment to meeting the deadline as stated in the initial scope remains the same.

Best,

Evelyn

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 8:53 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Yes, good evening Evelyn,

It took me a while to realize that the card did not include a link to background on the highway names. When the post card was first presented on Sept. 28, the task force did not intend it to be mailed to all residences. I then raised the issue about excluding voters and taxpayers. Now that it will be mailed to all residences (as per last night), the reasons for including the “Highway Overviews” are critical for informed decision making. Surely there is space on the card for another line with a link. That time is short is understood. However, my suggestion that the task force inform the BOS that their deadline should be extended was deemed not possible. Why, I don’t know. Sometimes plans have to be changed.

I do know that the BOS wants this business wrapped up asap so they can take their vote. But the pace at which the process is moving is almost dizzying. I have a blitz of paper here and TF staff and facilitators are working overtime to produce more. Frankly, I think it would be prudent to slow down the train and give us time to think things through—like what should go on the postcards—not hasten the train onward with safety checks not made. We need time to think and consider, and not be rushed to the finish line.

Thank you for your patience on this important matter,
Ed Wenzel

PS The “Overview” link should not only be on the post cards, but on the web site as well.

From: Spain, Evelyn

Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 7:36 PM

To: [edtw](#)

Cc:

Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Evening Ed,

Thank you so much for the compliment.

I don't recall that the postcard was ever going to include a link to the "Highway Overviews". Understanding how strongly you feel that this information needs to be shared with the public, you can ask if its' possible to put it on the website provided the Task Force agrees. Please remember, we are up against a tight deadline and it was strongly stated that changes unless it's a grave error, can not be made at this late stage.

By all means please feel free to share your concerns during the meeting on Monday. Please also let the group know you are happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Dr Shedd and I rode by there Thursday night on the way home from our meeting.

Thank you for offering.

Best,

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 1:46 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Good afternoon Evelyn,
Sorry for the delay. Yes, I am very happy that the TF has decided to mail post cards to County residences. That's good. And I compliment you

and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the "Highway Overviews" which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the "overview info" should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

Also, on the "Overview" sheet, under "Highway Overviews," in the next line, after each highway's name, I suggest adding the words "How this highway got its name." That will make it clear what the "Overview" is about.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS My concerns remain about the BOS motivation on these names. We all know what they did last year (which in my view was absolutely disgraceful), and what they want recommended on these names. I hope and pray that the uniqueness of Fairfax County's Civil War heritage is not further erased by guilt and politics-driven wokeness. Every locality has a "sense of place" and the Civil War put a massive stamp on Fairfax County. It is our history and it should not be subjected to cultural cleansing. As I said last night, I would happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park for anyone who might be interested.

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 10:13 AM
To: [edtw](#)
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

I believe we addressed this last evening during our sub committee meeting. Please let me know if you have any additional concerns around the USPS item.

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 7, 2021, at 9:33 AM, [edtw](#)
wrote:

Mr. Watson,

I received no reply yesterday to my query about the Sub-Group minutes not containing an important point of information: That the Task Force *will not utilize* the USPS to provide information to all Fairfax County households regarding changing the highway names. Instead, other selective means will be used for sampling purposes, but nothing will be targeted at the voters/taxpayers. The minutes should reflect that the Task Force will not use the USPS to contact voters on this important matter.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:14 AM
To: 'Watson, Malcolm'
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public
Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for forwarding the minutes of the Sub-Group meeting last week. I noticed there is one point missing from those minutes: I believe I asked whether the public survey would be mailed to all households in Fairfax County (via USPS) in order to give all voters and taxpayers the opportunity to respond to the proposed highway name changes. I noted that the response to this question was negative and that other means of communication were planned such as Supervisor's on-line newsletters, mailouts of postcards to the business community nearest the highways, County websites, chambers of commerce, social media (someone said millennials get their information there), "hashtags," and probably other means which I have forgotten. In any event, those means of outreach are limited and do not include the vast majority of Fairfax citizens.

I firmly believe that Fairfax voters and taxpayers should decide this name issue on a ballot referendum. That's the only "fair" way to decide whether or not to change the names of two primary highways that have existed here for 100 years— names that reflect the Civil War heritage of Fairfax County and make us unique in the Washington area. I've raised this issue several times before but no one seems interested in the logic of it. I think I understand why. The BOS does not want voters weighing in because they might reject the costly and ideologically driven agenda and cast their votes to keep the existing names. And the BOS wants those names and history erased. So no referendum, and they appoint a task force guided by paid contract facilitators to steer us toward name changes. For the BOS, that's much easier to accomplish than convincing hundreds of thousands of taxpayers and voters to agree with their anti-heritage and anti-Civil War name hysteria.

I strongly urge the task force to halt the planned path we are on and inform the BOS that in fairness to all the people of Fairfax, they should call a voter referendum to decide this issue. Any other device that's used to effect name changes is merely a way of avoiding the common sense and wisdom of the voters. No thirty individuals on a "task force" should decide for 1.2 million residents, and no BOS should arbitrarily change those names without voter agreement.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm<
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM

To: Spain, Evelyn

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public

Engagement Sub-Group Chair Spain and others, In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7, attached are the meeting minutes for your review and comment. Thanks in advance. Please let me know if I have missed something or misrepresented any topics discussed at the meeting.

Malcolm Watson



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Watson, Malcolm; Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Kristi Dooley; Dominguez, Noelle C.; Nissinen, Anna; Geiger, Robin; 'Juliette R Shedd'
Subject: RE: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Thank you, Mr. Watson, for forwarding the messages below. I hope these and other member's messages will be provided to the rest of the Task Force well before the next regular meeting. I await seeing the comments of other TF members..

Thank you, sir.
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 3:30 PM
To: edtw; Spain, Evelyn
Cc:
Subject: RE: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Good afternoon Chair Spain and Mr. Wenzel, Thank you both for following up. It is our sincere intention to remain as transparent as possible as we move through this process. Regarding Mr. Wenzel's email sent to Ms. Dooley on September 14, please refer to the attached document, which compiles the email and text messages we received prior to the meeting on September 20. Mr. Wenzel's email begins on page five and concludes with links directing people to additional information on Lee Highway and supplementary material by Walter Williams on page seven.

Thanks again,
Malcolm Watson
Transportation Planner

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Kristi Dooley
Subject: RE: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Good morning, Ms. Spain,

Thank you for following up on this matter. I have two comments:

One: The BOS is on public record with its opinion and with actions already taken—that Confederate names and memorials are "offensive" and should be changed or removed. I'm sure that the Task Force organizers and facilitators

know this and are steering the Task Force to that end. Facilitator statements made at the subgroup meeting last week confirm this.

Two: In regard to the exclusion of Fairfax Voters from deciding the fate of the names, why is that “out of our scope?” Is our task force not permitted to question the BOS? Is the issue of fairness regarding these names not our concern? Task Force members were led through DEI at our very first meeting, so “fairness” must rate very high with Task Force organizers and facilitators.

I would ask the Chair to stand for fairness, and to go back to the BOS with a strong recommendation that the voters and tax payers of Fairfax County are the ones who ought to decide whether the names of Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway should be changed. The BOS is already on public record with their intolerance and bigotry regarding Confederate names and associations in Fairfax County. Why would this Task Force bow to supervisors who have displayed so much animosity already?

“A country that forgets its past has no future.” Churchill.

Ed Wenzel

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 8:54 AM
To: [edtw](#); Watson, Malcolm
Cc: Kristi Dooley
Subject: Re: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Morning Mr. Wenzel,

I believe the September 14th email was sent out but I am following up with Mr Watson right after I send you this email. I do appreciate your passion and commitment to ensuring the Confederate Names Task Force and as stated earlier, the BOS will accept whatever recommendation we bring to the December 2021 board meeting. In my mind that means they have an open mind and will consider all options.

We will ensure as a unified group that we vote on whatever message the Confederate Names Task Force agrees upon before bringing it to the BOS and public engagement activities. As far as allowing the constituents of Fairfax to vote on this matter , it has already been discussed that this is out of our scope and has been put to rest.

Let me reiterate, moving forward I will ensure we vote on every item, concern, or suggestion made within the CNTF sub committee and full membership groups. This will so ensure have a documented record of decisions made as we move forward.

I have spoken with Mr.Watson and advised him to please share this email chain with the rest of the CNTF.

Thank you,

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 1, 2021, at 6:28 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Ms. Evelyn Spain, Chair,
Confederate Names Task Force

Dear Ms. Spain,

I regret having to bother you again, but you should know that my Sept. 14th e-mail which addressed Lee Highway and other related matters, still has not been disseminated to Task Force members. [See e-mails below and especially the subject e-mail at the bottom.] How are we to communicate information to other members if our messages are held for weeks before being released only days before the next meeting? This severely handicaps TF members and prevents critical information from being disseminated in a timely fashion. Please see what's holding up distribution of my e-mail which contains six links to the history of Lee Highway and Gen. R.E. Lee, and four links to columns by Walter E. Washington that are relevant to this matter. TF members should have seen this information long ago.

In regard to the Sept. 28 subgroup meeting, there were two statements made by the facilitators that I found disturbing. First, that the mission of this task force is "not to educate," and secondly, that they want us to "move away from the past and toward the future." "What do we want today?" as one asked. Those statements confirm what has been obvious to me since the beginning—that Task Force organizers and facilitators are there to lead this group in the direction of name changes. I have commented before that the BOS wants these highway names changed, just as they do any name or memorial that reflects or acknowledges Confederate heritage in this county. We have been assured at our meetings that the BOS has made no decisions about the highway names, but that's not believable. Supervisor's statements, past actions, correspondence, media coverage, and TF documents are clear about what the BOS wants. I believe that this Task Force was conceived to provide political cover for a decision that has already been made and that's why we are being led "away from the past (Civil War heritage) and toward the future"—whatever that means. However, we can be assured that the BOS' vision for Fairfax does not include reminders of the Civil War, especially any Confederate reminders.

At our first meeting in August, we heard a lecture about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion—the message being (I suppose) that there is something wrong with names that reflect our Civil War past, at least in the minds of some. I have commented that "diversity" means a multiplicity, a variety, more than one, etc. Yet, in this case, the BOS seeks to erase diversity, just as they did with the perfectly fine Marr monument which stood beside the street where the first action of the war occurred. Why? Because *Marr was a Confederate*, period. I call that bigotry and intolerance. That monument wasn't even "to" Capt. Marr. The inscription only gave a bearing and distance to where his body was found—the first Confederate to die in action in the war. Nothing else. The removal of that landmark monument and the two cannon was a disgraceful gesture to "wokeness" that robbed Fairfax County and Fairfax City of a 116-year-old historical monument and an important remembrance of Civil War heritage in Fairfax.

I support the diverse groups who populate Fairfax County today, as does everyone else I know. However, as a native of this area, I am conscious of the Confederate history in a county that voted overwhelmingly for secession. I am also well acquainted with the two monuments to Union Generals Kearny and Stevens who were killed in the Battle of Ox Hill near Rt. 50. No one has suggested that those two monuments be removed or be hidden in a warehouse, or be "contextualized." The fact that Union monuments exist at all in this county, is a tribute to John Ballard, a former Confederate cavalryman (of Mosby's command) who owned the farm where the battle was fought. It was Ballard and his wife, Mary, who gave the land to Union soldiers so they could erect monuments to their fallen generals. And it was Ballard who led the effort to put up the monument beside Main Street in Fairfax

marking Marr's death in the first action of the war (Fairfax C. H. Raid, June 1, 1861). While Fairfax County brags that we are the "Gateway to America's Heritage," the current BOS has proven that they only care about certain heritage, and have been quick to dismiss and condemn Confederate heritage for which, except for slavery, they show zero understanding.

I am for everyone's heritage. If names or reminders are needed to reflect other heritage in Fairfax, I think you will find interested parties in local groups, including myself, who would look favorably on such an endeavor. Reminders of people who were enslaved on farms in the county, or their descendants who accomplished so much during the Jim Crow era would certainly be worthy of recognition. We do have a "diverse" heritage here and it covers a broad spectrum. That said, the Civil War dominates the history of Virginia and of Fairfax, and it was the defining event in the history of America. The death toll was staggering. With a population of only 31 million people in both the north and south, 750,000 perished (including civilians).

The names Lee highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway in Fairfax are an important part of our Civil War heritage. They give Fairfax a sense of place in northern Virginia where so much of the war occurred, and they distinguish us from other counties in the Washington area. Fairfax is the place where Lee and Jackson brought the war to the doorstep of Washington, when only 90 days before, the Federal army was at the gates of Richmond. Such was the tactical genius of Lee and Jackson (and Longstreet), that in three months' time they were able to defeat two Union armies and transfer the war from Richmond to Fairfax County (Ox Hill) in the shadow of the Union capitol dome. Lee and Jackson were Virginia heroes and are forever linked in Confederate memory. Even foes and military officers abroad praised their military tactics and what they accomplished with inferior numbers. No matter their human faults, Lee and Jackson will always command respect as American military leaders of the highest caliber.

I have also commented that "inclusion," as in DEI, is not what this TF is about. The Confederate Names Task Force is actually about "exclusion." The Task Force, despite its planned "community engagement" with post cards, social media, websites, hash tags, chambers of commerce, and other such targets, will come up short and will exclude hundreds of thousands of Fairfax voters from having any say in whether or not these century-old highway names are removed. I have mentioned twice before that no 30 hand-picked people, nor the BOS itself, should have any right to change the names of primary highways without a voter referendum. To be "fair"—as I'm certain we all believe we are—Fairfax voters should be included in any decision of this magnitude. But, perhaps the BOS does not trust the voters to make the "correct" decision? I think any plan that excludes a referendum is designed to usher name changes through the bureaucratic system before anyone can stop it. And that's why the BOS will not rescind its artificial December deadline.

On a final note, the History Commission report has been praised as the last word on Confederate names. However, there are some errors and distortions in that document and the TF should be careful what it cites.

I hope you can disseminate my Sept. 14th e-mail before any more time passes. (See bottom of this thread.) Also, please make sure that this e-mail is forwarded to members as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 11:07 AM

To: 'Watson, Malcolm'
Cc: 'Spain, Evelyn' ; 'Kristi Dooley'
Subject: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14

Mr. Watson,

Concerning the missing e-mail (below, Sept. 14) that was not included in the packet sent out prior to our Sept. 20 meeting—when do you anticipate that TF members will see it? Waiting until a few days before the next meeting (Oct. 11) is not good. That e-mail information (including 10 relevant links) should have been seen and read prior to the last regular meeting. It was unfortunate that it was not in the packet. The sooner that members receive it the better.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 3:06 PM
To: 'Spain, Evelyn'
Subject: RE:

Thanks you, Ms. Spain. Looking forward to tonight's meeting.

Regards,
Ed Wenzel

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2021 7:03 PM
To: [edtw](#)
Cc: Watson, Malcolm; Kristi Dooley

Subject: Re:

Dear Mr. Wendell,

Thank you for notifying us that one of your emails is missing. I will check in with Malcom first thing Monday morning to ensure he sends out your Sept 14th email. Please be assured that it is our intention to remain transparent throughout the Confederate Names Task Force process.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Sep 18, 2021, at 2:17 PM, [edtw](#) wrote:

Ms. Evelyn Spain,
Chair, Confederate Names Task Force

Dear Ms. Spain,

I want to call your attention to the e-mails I sent to Ms. Dooley this past week (Sept. 14 and 16) relative to the topics being considered by the TF. In the Messages and Tweets attachment received from Mr. Watson yesterday, I noticed that my Sept. 14 message is missing. That e-mail concerned the meeting last Monday (Sept. 13) and included five links to important Lee Highway information, four links to pertinent columns by Walter E. Williams, and a link to a book review and comments on the Letters and Recollections of R.E. Lee as published by his son in 1904.

The Lee Highway information is critical for TF understanding of why the road was so named, and Walter Williams' columns throw light on Historical Ignorance, Abraham Lincoln, Black history/White Guilt, and DEI "Nonsense" as he terms it. In addition, I included the Lee material as necessary in view of the current narrative that he fought to destroy the U. S. Government, which is not true. Please see that my email of Sept 14 is provided to the TF for their scrutiny.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS I assume that Messages, Tweets, or other communications by TF members to staff will be published in the final report. Is that correct? I want to be certain that pertinent material and other concerns are not excluded from the published report, or from public knowledge. Thanks again.

From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 11:25 PM

To: 'Kristi Dooley'

Subject: Confederate Names and R.E. Lee, Recollections and Letters etc.

Hi Kristi,

At the meeting last night a number of statements were made, including by the guest speaker, that I took some exception to. The format of the meetings is such that one cannot unmute and interject. That would be discourteous to the person speaking. So one must wait, and one person should not monopolize time that has to be shared by all. Also, if I pick up on a point to make, that does not mean that I can formulate the words for a question or comment immediately. So even if I could interject a comment, the time for it passes. I guess I'm not so good at notetaking or articulating thoughts on the fly.

I also perceive that the planners of the agenda assume that most people generally do not know about Lost Cause efforts to minimize slavery, or the exalting of the war effort and the top generals. That may be true for some, but

for those who have studied the war, we have listened to countless lectures over the years and read about most aspects of CW history beyond the battles, i.e.: the legality of secession, state sovereignty and loyalty, Reconstruction, KKK violence, Jubal Early's cabal etc.

Following Reconstruction, white political corruption was (I believe) a direct reaction to the Radical Republicans and the Union Leagues who swarmed the region after the war and helped elect blacks to power at state and local levels—all to ensure a permanent black Republican political base while ex-Confederates were disenfranchised. When one considers Republican efforts to divide freedmen from former masters and whites, does it not throw some light on possible reasons for violence and black voting restrictions as whites corruptly regained power? As evil as it was, one has to look beyond the obvious. For every action, there is a reaction. If you turn a 240-year-old culture and way of life upside-down by force and destruction, and kill 750,000 people while you're at it, wouldn't you expect to encounter bitter resentment that might lead to bad consequences? Could it have been otherwise? Yes, I think it could have.

Below is a link to a "Goodreads" review of a republished *Recollections and Letters of General Robert E. Lee* by his youngest son, Capt. R.E. Lee Jr. in 1904. Be sure to read the entirety of readers comments afterward. I forward this link to counter the view that Lee was simply a "traitor" and a "slaveowner" who wanted to "destroy" the United States. I heard something similar said last night about Lee and Stonewall Jackson. It's the current media narrative which Dr. Tarter knows is not true. <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11061428-recollections-and-letters-of-general-robert-e-lee>

As I mentioned, **Lee Highway** was one of a hundred or more named "Auto Trails" that "good roads" organizations were advocating for in the early 20th century. The nation's roads at that time were little better than they were during the Civil War. The roads were muddy, rutted obstacles at the dawn of the automobile age. When Model T Fords appeared in 1908, they were designed to navigate these horrible roads, but it was obvious to businessmen and local boosters that improved roads were desperately needed. The Great War in Europe and a young army officer named Dwight Eisenhower also figured in the great American road story and the linking together of transcontinental routes under various names.

The links below provide historical context. I think it's obvious that the name "Lee Highway" did not arise from any Jim Crow intention to intimidate or insult black people, or to project "white supremacy." In reality, Lee's name was obvious for a Southern transcontinental route just as the Lincoln Highway was a shoo-in for a Northern route. Remember, this is the 50th Anniversary period and veterans of both sides are still living and Lee was a Southern hero. The background below on **Lee Highway** and the transcontinental road movement should have been a priority for task force agenda planners rather than One Fairfax, DEI, and Mr. Tarter's take on the Lost Cause and white superiority.

Lee Highway

<https://americanroads.us/autotrails/leehighway.html>

Dr. S.M. Johnson, A Dreamer of Dreams. FHA Highway History, The Lee Highway, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Lee Boulevard

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/johnson.cfm>

Zero Milestone in Washington D.C.

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/zero.cfm>

Photo Gallery Along Lee Highway (Mid-1920s)

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/johngal2.cfm>

Lee Highway, Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Highway

Added material:

The links below are columns by the late Walter E. Williams, professor of Economics at GMU. Williams was one of the best thinkers and commentators in the business. A great mind and a clear, succinct writer.

Historical Ignorance of Confederate Generals, 7/22/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/72310-historical-ignorance-and-confederate-generals-2020-07-22>

Abraham Lincoln, 2/20/13

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/16820-abraham-lincoln-2013-02-20>

Insults to Black History, 6/24/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/71596-insults-to-black-history-2020-06-24>

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Nonsense, 9/2/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/73106-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-nonsense-2020-09-02>

Please review the links above and see if you don't think that the task force would benefit from this additional information. Having heard Dr. Tarter's views, I think they would appreciate it. Please forward to each member.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 1:47 PM
To: Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; Kristi Dooley; 'Juliette R Shedd'
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn,

Sorry for the delay. Yes, I am very happy that the TF has decided to mail post cards to County residences. That's good. And I compliment you and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the "Highway Overviews" which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the "overview info" should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

Also, on the "Overview" sheet, under "Highway Overviews," in the next line, after each highway's name, I suggest adding the words "How this highway got its name." That will make it clear what the "Overview" is about.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

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From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 10:13 AM
To: edtw
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

I believe we addressed this last evening during our sub committee meeting. Please let me know if you have any additional concerns around the USPS item.

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 7, 2021, at 9:33 AM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Mr. Watson,

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Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:14 AM

To: 'Watson, Malcolm'

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

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voters. No thirty individuals on a “task force” should decide for 1.2 million residents, and no BOS should arbitrarily change those names without voter agreement.

Thank you,
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From: Watson, Malcolm

Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM

To: Spain, Evelyn

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group Chair Spain and others, In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7, attached are the meeting minutes for your review and comment. Thanks in advance. Please let me know if I have missed something or misrepresented any topics discussed at the meeting.

Malcolm Watson



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

Subject: FW: Comments on Renaming Lee Highway | Confederate Names Task Force

From: S Chandra

Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 5:33 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force <DOTConfederateNamesTaskForce@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Subject: Comments on Renaming Lee Highway | Confederate Names Task Force

Dear Task Force Members,

With regards to the review of names of Lee Highway (U.S. Route 29) and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (U.S. Route 50), I would like to bring following information to your notice:

a) Although Robert E. Lee was a confederate general, after the civil war he played a crucial role in restoring peace [1]. He was advised and encouraged to not surrender and continue the fight in a gorilla war manner. He was very much capable and resourceful to do it but at that moment he thought like an American and decided not to continue the fight keeping America above all. In the words of Jay Winik, the famous historian and author - "by this one momentous decision, he spared the country from the divisive guerilla warfare that surely would have followed." [2]

It was the decision by political leaders of that era that started the civil war. Robert E. Lee was only following orders. But when his turn came to make a key decision, he decided in favor of America.

b) After the civil war, he advised a confederate widow who was full of animosity towards North to rise above any sectional feeling and raise the kids as Americans. As quoted by Edward Lee Childe in his book *The Life and Campaigns of General Lee (1875)*, p. 331, Lee told the widow "Madam, don't bring up your sons to detest the United States Government. Recollect that we form but one country, now. Abandon all these local animosities, and make your sons Americans." [3]

c) According to Emory Thomas, a renowned History Professor Emeritus at the University of Georgia and noted scholar of the American Civil War Robert E. Lee played an instrumental role in the Mexican-American war (1846-1848) which resulted in the Westward expansion of the United States.[4]

The civil war and the cause behind it is a blot in American history. Yet by focusing on only one aspect of Robert E. Lee (General of the Confederate Army) and ignoring his other important contributions to America during pre and post civil war period, we may be inadvertently showing the same intolerance and hatred which caused the civil war.

Sources:

1. <https://www.nps.gov/arho/learn/historyculture/lee-s-work-for-reunification.htm>
2. April 1865, Book by Jay Winik
3. *The Life and Campaigns of General Lee (1875)* by Edward Lee Childe, p. 331.
4. Thomas, Emory M. (1997). *Robert E. Lee*. W. W. Norton & Co. ISBN 978-0-393-31631-5.

Watson, Malcolm

From: Evelyn Spain
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:52 AM
To: Kristi Dooley
Cc: edtw Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; JulietteR Shedd
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

I agree with with everything stated in Kristi's email. I stand by the decisions that have been voted on by the members of CNTF Subcommittee, the deadline set by the BOS and confirm all CNTF subcommittee correspondence has been shared by Malcolm.

Thank you for sharing thoughts.

Chair Spain

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 10, 2021, at 8:58 PM, kristi dooley :

Hi Ed,

What the subgroup agreed to was the one page sheet that Blake and Shirley worked on and the that the subgroup approved (the Task Force purpose and historical context of the highway names) being at the beginning of the survey's online version, as well as on the front page of the paper version of the survey, as a handout at the public feedback meetings, and as information that will be placed on the web site as well. Since the postcard being sent countywide links all county residents to the web site where this information is already included, there was no other conversation about a need for any additional link. Anyone who goes to the link on the postcard will already find that information there. Hopefully that addresses your concerns.

With respect to the timing of the process, we are very clear with the Board's intent for the timeframe in which the work is to be completed, and we are proceeding accordingly, as we've shared with you. Please note that doesn't preclude you from voicing your own concerns to your Board member at any time.

To my knowledge, we have not received any other emails from Task Force members with additional information or requests since our last meeting on September 20 (other than a few emails coordinating aspects of the subgroup's work). I think Malcolm has sent out to the full Task Force your emails that have detailed your concerns about timing and any other content-related issues. Just wanted to put you at ease with respect to that. You aren't missing any other correspondence from other TF members because there hasn't been any.

Hope that's helpful. Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow night!

Best,
Kristi

From: <edtw

Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3:49 PM**To:** 'evelyn spain'

Cc: "'Watson, Malcolm'

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn,

There are a few problems here.

- 1) Did the sub-group quorum realize that the historical basis for the highway names *had no link* on the post card before they voted to accept it? I certainly did not. I have no notes of planners or facilitators calling attention to that fact, or of anyone noting it beforehand. Am I wrong? Perhaps others did and said nothing about it, but I myself did not realize that the post card lacked that information. I only noticed it when I returned home from the Oct. 7 meeting.
- 2) This process is being rushed along with much of the work being done behind the scenes. The prepared material is then brought forth at our meetings with little time for the rest of us to think about what we are looking at, or, if there are other factors that should be considered.
- 3) Yes, I have raised questions about the time-line before, and have noted the lack of interest in extending the time period. Perhaps TF organizers are not permitted to push back against the BOS. Indeed this process is like a freight train going down the track, and no delays are permitted.
- 4) Among the meeting materials for Monday Oct. 11 (sent late Friday, Oct. 8) I find no attachment containing the e-mails and messages exchanged between members, staff, and facilitators since our last full meeting on September 20. That's a three week stretch in which TF members remain uninformed and out of the loop on important points raised between myself and the Chair, organizers, and facilitators. Where are those messages? Will the other TF members see them? And where are their messages? I assume that I am not the only one with points to make, and that others are having input too. I'd appreciate knowing their views as well.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: evelyn spain

Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:21 AM

To: edtw

Cc:

Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

Thank you for your feedback. The website will contain the “ Overview” link. This will allow the reader to click on the link and go directly to the overview information. Please note the quorum of subcommittee members voted on accepting the postcard as it currently stands.

We have addressed the timeline concerns numerous times, both in the CNTF meetings and with the BOS. Our commitment to meeting the deadline as stated in the initial scope remains the same.

Best,

Evelyn

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 8:53 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Yes, good evening Evelyn,

It took me a while to realize that the card did not include a link to background on the highway names. When the post card was first presented on Sept. 28, the task force did not intend it to be mailed to all residences. I then raised the issue about excluding voters and taxpayers. Now that it will be mailed to all residences (as per last night), the reasons for including the “Highway Overviews” are critical for informed decision making. Surely there is space on the card for another line with a link. That time is short is understood. However, my suggestion that the task force inform the BOS that their deadline should be extended was deemed not possible. Why, I don’t know. Sometimes plans have to be changed.

I do know that the BOS wants this business wrapped up asap so they can take their vote. But the pace at which the process is moving is almost dizzying. I have a blitz of paper here and TF staff and facilitators are working overtime to produce more. Frankly, I think it would be prudent to slow down the train and give us time to think things through—like what should go on the postcards—not hasten the train onward with safety checks not made. We need time to think and consider, and not be rushed to the finish line.

Thank you for your patience on this important matter,
Ed Wenzel

PS The “Overview” link should not only be on the post cards, but on the web site as well.

From: Spain, Evelyn

Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 7:36 PM

To: [edtw](#)

Cc:

Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Evening Ed,

Thank you so much for the compliment.

I don't recall that the postcard was ever going to include a link to the "Highway Overviews". Understanding how strongly you feel that this information needs to be shared with the public, you can ask if its' possible to put it on the website provided the Task Force agrees. Please remember, we are up against a tight deadline and it was strongly stated that changes unless it's a grave error, can not be made at this late stage.

By all means please feel free to share your concerns during the meeting on Monday. Please also let the group know you are happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Dr Shedd and I rode by there Thursday night on the way home from our meeting.

Thank you for offering.

Best,

Chair Spain

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On Oct 8, 2021, at 1:46 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Good afternoon Evelyn,
Sorry for the delay. Yes, I am very happy that the TF has decided to mail post cards to County residences. That's good. And I compliment you

and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the "Highway Overviews" which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the "overview info" should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

Also, on the "Overview" sheet, under "Highway Overviews," in the next line, after each highway's name, I suggest adding the words "How this highway got its name." That will make it clear what the "Overview" is about.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS My concerns remain about the BOS motivation on these names. We all know what they did last year (which in my view was absolutely disgraceful), and what they want recommended on these names. I hope and pray that the uniqueness of Fairfax County's Civil War heritage is not further erased by guilt and politics-driven wokeness. Every locality has a "sense of place" and the Civil War put a massive stamp on Fairfax County. It is our history and it should not be subjected to cultural cleansing. As I said last night, I would happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park for anyone who might be interested.

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Thank you,

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To: 'Watson, Malcolm

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public

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To: Spain, Evelyn

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public

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This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

From: evelyn spain
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:21
To: Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; Kristi Dooley; Juliette R Shedd
Cc: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group
Subject:

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Malcolm Watson

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 10:36 AM
To: Watson, Malcolm
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for sending the FOIA and meeting links. I have tried to view them but cannot get audio on the Ch 16 video at the 31 minute mark. The video begins with audio, but when I move to 31 minutes, all I get is a circle rotating in the center of the screen with no audio or video motion. Also, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act video does the same thing and it's a 3 hour video. No advancing forward in the video if you knew where to go, which I don't. I don't have the time to watch either video from the beginning. Doesn't anyone know the answer to my question without viewing the video? Isn't there a printed document with table of contents and index that can be forwarded?

Thanks,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 4:14 PM
To: edtw
Cc:
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Wenzel,

Thank you for following up. Regarding your questions about communication guidelines, I've provided the link to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act training video. I've also provided the link to the Confederate Names Task Force website, where you can view the meeting recorded on August 16. At that meeting, Louis Nuzzo, Assistant County Attorney with the Office of the County Attorney for Fairfax County provided the Task Force with an overview of Virginia Freedom of Information Act regulations beginning at the 31 minute mark.

- Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA) training video: https://www.ebmcdn.net/fairfax/fairfax-cable-viewer-cc-r-embed.php?viewnode=2020_VFOIA_cc
- [Confederate Names Task Force | Transportation \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

Thanks again, and please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have additional questions.

Malcolm

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Watson, Malcolm
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

I have a question. We are not supposed to talk/email with more than one TF member at a time to avoid creating a "meeting." But we can e-mail one member and then separately forward that e-mail to another member; or perhaps send to four or five other members if done one by one. That kind of defeats the purpose of the rule, no? Also, while I can't discuss TF business with more than one member at a time, I can discuss my thoughts on the subject, or send comments, to non-Task Force people or friends, correct? Can you please send me a link to the Virginia guidelines/ requirements that govern here?

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 11:56 AM
To:
Subject: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good morning,

Thank you for volunteering for the Public Engagement Sub-Group of the Confederate Names Task Force. If possible, the group should meet twice before the next Task Force meeting, which is scheduled for October 11. Can you please let me know if you're available to meet in person on either Tuesday or Thursday evenings during the weeks of September 27 and October 4?

- Week of September 27: Tuesday 9/28 or Thursday 9/30
- Week of October 4: Tuesday 10/5 or Thursday 10/7

Can you please respond with your availability by tomorrow (Thursday) at 12 PM? We will pass along the meeting details thereafter.

Thank you again, and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Malcolm Watson

Transportation Planner



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:58 PM
To: Watson, Malcolm
Subject: Confederate Names TF. 9/20 meeting

Mr. Watson,

I'm not sure what happened last night with the muted phone connection. My phone was on talk but I was not being heard. I tried to speak during the 4th segment but had to hang up and call you to look into the problem. I then dialed back and got through and made my remarks. I suppose a switch was off somewhere?

I don't believe this TF process is going to work. From the "road map" or schedule, it looks like the path has already been mapped out to lead to a name change. That's what Jeff McKay wants and he is on public record saying so, as is our TF Chair. One TF member said he was under the impression that the only reason for the TF was to change the names, and his impression is valid given supervisors' statements and media reports.

From my correspondence and experience with four supervisors—name changes are what they want. Of course, the BOS can request that the Commonwealth Transportation Board change the names without any recommendation from anyone. My take is that the BOS wants the task force for political cover to help them deflect criticism. That is my view and I believe it is correct.

As for the "Community Engagement Plans" and working with district supervisors to plan "Community briefings," whatever material is assembled for one district must be the same for all districts. And the information must be correct, not false narratives. Last night we heard again that Gen. Lee was a "traitor" who fought to "overthrow the U.S. Government." The facilitator said nothing because she probably didn't know. That narrative about Lee is completely false but it is deeply ingrained in a lot of people who absolutely believe it because they don't understand what really happened. Misinformation cannot be presented as fact to community groups.

Historical Ignorance of Confederate Generals, 7/22/20 <https://patriotpost.us/opinion/72310-historical-ignorance-and-confederate-generals-2020-07-22>

Abraham Lincoln, 2/20/13 <https://patriotpost.us/opinion/16820-abraham-lincoln-2013-02-20>

Regarding name changes or not, it was said that we should do "what the community wants" and defer to the "community's wishes." Note that "the community" does not mean "the voters." Whatever outreach we do is going to exclude hundreds of thousands of Fairfax County voters. A voter referendum is the only way to know public sentiment on this historical name issue. Someone said a referendum was "inappropriate." But why? If the BOS wants to change the names of two primary highways that have been named for a hundred years, why shouldn't voters have a say? The question should be on the ballot. Perhaps the voters are not trusted? It's a fundamental issue of fairness. The TF should recommend a ballot referendum to the BOS. That would take the onus off the TF and the people who really matter would decide. We are only 30 people being asked to decide for 1.2 million Fairfax residents. That's not fair by anyone's standard.

Much was said about being "Welcoming" and "Inclusive," inferring that we can't be if the highway names don't change. That's nonsense. Immigrants are pouring into the County every day and they know zero about the American Civil War. Lee, Jackson, Stuart and Mosby mean nothing to them. They are historical American

Confederate Street Renaming Ideas

AP

Andrew Painter <andrewpainter@hotmail.com>

Wed 10/20/2021 4:30 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force; ebhenderson22@gmail.com



To whom it may concern,

My family and I reside in the Greenway Downs section of Providence District, immediately opposite of the City of Falls Church.

I am an avid lover of Northern Virginia history. I offer the following (as shown on the below map):

1. Rename Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway to Little River Turnpike west of Fairfax City. This honors the name of the original road, avoids a controversial change in naming it after someone else, and honors the road's original purpose--to provide a transportation corridor between Alexandria and the Little River in Aldie. It also provides a consistent name with Route 236 east of Fairfax City to the Alexandria line. Perhaps Loudoun would follow suit in reaming its stretch of John Mosby Highway.
2. Rename Lee Highway either "Fairfax Boulevard" or "Providence Boulevard" between Graham Road and the Fairfax City line AND west of the City of Fairfax to the PWC line. This would be consistent with Fairfax Boulevard in the City of Fairfax. If Providence Boulevard is considered, this would honor the City of Fairfax's original name and the center of the County. No matter what, I would NOT use the term "Highway." Our county is urbanizing and deserves a classier name.
3. For the stretch of Lee Highway between Graham Road and the City of Falls Church line (Tinner Hill Road), I'd suggest renaming this to Washington Street. Our subdivision, Greenway Downs, was laid out on both sides of Lee Highway in 1927--in both Fairfax County and what was the Town of Falls Church. The City of Falls Church's decision to incorporate as a city of the second class in 1948 created mental divisions on both sides of the city-county line that need healing. The two sides rarely talk to one another, though we have formed a small traffic calming committee with folks from both sides looking for ways to slow traffic and come together. One of the recommendations we came up with was to find ways to psychologically bring people together and to reduce confusion by having consistent naming between the city and county sides of the road. I would note that even on the county side, some of our street signs already read "Washington Street," while others read "Lee Highway." Much like State Street in Bristol Virginia, which runs down the border of two different states, this stretch of US 29 divides two different jurisdictions. This is the only place in Fairfax County where this occurs, and differences in street names should be avoided.

I've copied Edwin Henderson (a Providence District representative) on this email as well since he has experience in both the city and the county.



Fairfax Boulevard -or- Providence Boulevard
(From Fairfax City Line to Prince William County Line)

Little River Turnpike
(From Fairfax City Line to Loudoun County Line)

Fairfax Boulevard
-or-
Providence Boulevard
(From Graham Road to Fairfax City Line)

Washington Street
Opposite City of Falls
Church; From
Graham Road to Falls
Church City Line

Feedback on Renaming Lee Hwy

JG

Jennifer Girard <jawgirard@gmail.com>

Tue 10/19/2021 9:03 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Good afternoon,

My name is Jenny Girard. I live on Lee Hwy in Fairfax County, in the Falls Church area. This means my side of the street is called Lee Hwy, while the other side of the street is S. Washington Street. In addition to being a Fairfax resident of Lee Hwy, I am also the VP of the Greenway Downs Citizens Association (our north border is Lee Hwy), and I am a cofounder of the Falls Church 29 committee, a citizen-led effort to make our section of Lee Hwy more walkable and accessible.

I want to implore the committee to carefully consider the renaming process not in a vacuum, but rather in the context of the realities of our daily lives. Whether you are a tourist in DC headed to the State Theatre, or you're a Fairfax resident who works in Arlington, thousands of people every day drive along Lee Hwy to get to where they're going. Lee Hwy follows right along the edge of several jurisdictions, but it has multiple names: Lee Hwy, Route 29 (the only consistent name), Langston Blvd., N. Washington Street, S. Washington St. (and that's not even mentioning the weird part where it merges with Route 50). This shows a lack of cross jurisdictional cooperation in the past. It is incredibly frustrating to have one street with multiple names, especially when it cuts through communities that otherwise feel like they belong together. When guests travel to my home and see the "S. Washington Street" sign across the street from my house, they think they must be on the wrong road- because it makes NO sense to have different names for the SAME ROAD.

I don't feel strongly about Langston Blvd v. Washington Street (though I like the reasons behind the Langston Blvd decision), but I *do* feel strongly about having a cohesive name that helps reduce confusion and reiterates the fact that many of us are part of the same community, regardless of whether we are in Fairfax, FCC or Arlington's jurisdiction. We are all Virginians, after all. Given the recent change to Langston Blvd in Arlington, it would seem to make sense to align with that recent name change (I think Fairfax shares similar values to Arlington), and then to advocate that Falls Church City consider doing the same (a tall order, and not the intent or scope of this task force, I recognize). I sometimes internally debate which is more ridiculous- two sides of the same street with different names, or one street that just changes names every 15 minutes in any direction.

Two last comments- the name "highway" does not invoke a sense of community, yet there are many residential areas along Lee Hwy. Whatever new name is chosen should use a street type that better reflects the fact that communities exist and belong along and across this road.

Lastly, as a Lee Hwy resident, I would hope consideration would be given to residents who will have address changes (if a new name is chosen). Will guidance be given out as to what we have to do in terms of changing our address everywhere, or will the county automatically update things like our property deeds? Will the old Lee Hwy address legally still work and for how long?

Thank you,

Jenny Girard

--

Renaming of highways

L

Laura <lwic1513@gmail.com>

Tue 10/19/2021 1:36 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force

Do NOT rename the highways.

Laura Wickline.

Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**



Native American Name Suggestion

ML

Marge Landis <marge20120@gmail.com>

Wed 10/20/2021 9:22 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



I would like to suggest naming the roads for the native American places where the roads are heading.

Route 15 heads south towards what is today called Culpepper and was the native American settlement called Tauxania. Route 15 could be named **Tauxania Rd.**

<https://ccc.vt.edu/index/aiicc/eastern-siouan-speaking-peoples.html>

Route 50 leads to what is today called Keyser West Virginia. I don't know the native names for that region, but someone could find out.

Marge Landis
Centreville, VA

Reply | **Forward**

road renaming and Colin Powell

AM

Arielle Masters <arielle@imstumped.com>

Mon 10/18/2021 3:11 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



I already answered the survey a day or two ago and don't want to confuse matters by trying to answer it again so I'm emailing you.

Very sad to hear that Colin Powell died today. While he wasn't a civil rights leader exactly, he was a very admirable and competent man who broke barriers. I suggest we name one of the most prominent/longest of the major roads around here that we're renaming, hopefully one that goes straight into DC, for him. He deserves recognition.

If it matters, I'm white.

Thank you for giving this serious consideration.

Reply | **Forward**

Lee Highway name change

LF

Linda Freeman <lmfreeman1959@gmail.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 8:37 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Hello,

I had always thought that Lee Highway was named after Robert E Lee's father, former governor of Virginia and revolutionary patriot, Lighthorse Harry Lee (Harry Lee III).

Worth verification. After all, Leesburg was named after Thomas Lee, Robert E. Lee's Great Grand Uncle.

There were numerous famous Lee's in Virginia.

Linda Freeman
Virginian

Reply | **Forward**

(No subject)

JD

jean dunnigan <jndunni@yahoo.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 8:43 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force

Stop erasing history and learn from it and don't repeat it.

Reply | **Forward**



Change all Confederate names and remove all Confederate monuments

DW

Don Willcox <don.willcox@gmail.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 9:19 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



The Confederate cause was to create an independent country with the sole purpose of protecting the enslavement of Black persons by white persons. Confederates, by definition, were traitors. 670,000 people died in the Slaveholder Rebellion - Confederates were killing US Army members to dissolve the USA to protect the rights of slaveholders.

Its wrong to 'honor' any traitor that attacked and killed so many US soldiers.

--

Donald A. Willcox

Principal

Kresge/Willcox Consulting, LLC

Commercial Real Estate Consulting (est. 1991)

Reply | **Forward**

Confederate names task force

AG

Anna Gnadt <magnadt@msn.com>

Sat 10/16/2021 12:54 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Please do not change the names of our roads (Lee Hwy, Lee-Jackson Mem. Hwy). I do not support any name change. We can't rename every road or structure that someone objects to, nor should we condemn the historical figure for whom they are named by holding them to modern day views or behavioral norms. The historical figures were chosen for their important contributions to society. We cannot erase those contributions and should not attempt to erase their names from our roads.

Don't cave to the "woke" mob.

Sent from my iPad

Reply | **Forward**

Do not change the names keep the names of the roads the same.

BM

Bruce Mahen <bruce.mahen@gmail.com>

Sat 10/16/2021 1:50 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**

Renaming of anything in the public domain related to the former Confederate States of America including streets and highways in Virginia

FC

Floyd Cason <floydcason@msn.com>

Sun 10/17/2021 7:27 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



First, and foremost it is preposterous to believe slavery only applied to Southern states in America. Unless you are willing to replace every American iconic name linked to this nation's history, this is nothing more than phony virtue signaling to the perpetually offended, and overly vocal, and violent segment of our society that will never be satiated irregardless of how much of our taxpayer dollars are wasted in the effort. Just because you can do something, doesn't mean you should. To take them down while simultaneously installing Afrocentric monuments, or names like what was done in Richmond that were not voted on in any public referendum is doing nothing but further dividing us, so stop it already. If it's so popular, why are you not putting it to a vote by the citizenry? It's because you know the public support is not there just like in Charlottesville where Confederate statues were removed when a local 29News public poll proved there was overwhelming public support for them to stay. Stop with the pandering, it's really out of hand at this point. Also understand the political winds will no doubt change, and with it there will no doubt be consequences for these continued irresponsible actions.

Sent on my Virgin Mobile Samsung Galaxy Phone.

Reply | **Forward**

Highway Renaming Fairfax should respect history and leave the names as chosen.

EA

Elizabeth Andrews <ecandrews@verizon.net>

Sun 10/17/2021 8:14 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**

Comment on Confederate highway name change

PB

Paul Bjarnason <paul.bjarnason@gmail.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 8:31 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Dear Board of Supervisors and Name Change Task Force –

My comments are:

1 – Time is valuable, so I wish we could spend our time on something more important. We have all these smart people spending hundreds of hours on this issue. I think there are issues of greater importance and I trust that you know what they are.

2 – Cost should be a consideration – what will it cost to change all the highway signs, maps, brochures and stationery? Who will pay for this?

3 – Name changes will sow confusion, unnecessary confusion.

Thank you.

Paul Bjarnason
4712 Montgomery Street
Annandale, VA 22003
703.627.1324

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Reply | **Forward**

Changing names of Lee Hwy., etc

JD

jean dunnigan <jndunni@yahoo.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 8:41 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force

Stop erasing history. Learn from it and don't repeat it.

Reply | **Forward**



Road renaming

BD

Brian Deckert <deck314@mac.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 8:49 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



I fully support renaming the roads in Fairfax city to remove Confederate references. In addition to Lee Highway, Picket Road and Old Picket Road should be renamed.

Regards,

Brian Deckert
3421 White Oak Ct
Fairfax, VA 22030

Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**

Please keep Lee Highway name

CD

Christopher Dietz <bigtig1165@gmail.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 10:26 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Please stop wasting your and our time and money on changing names of highways and roads. There have to be a hundred more important things you can focus your time and OUR money on.

Keep Lee Highway, Lee Highway.

Thank you.

Very Respectfully,

Chris Dietz

(703) 862-1331

<https://www.messenger.com/t/letsgetfitwthchris>

Reply | **Forward**

Stop removing our heritage

SB

Shayne Berlo <shayneberlo@hotmail.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 10:41 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force

Leave our history and heritage alone.

Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**



Re: Why don't you do a poll before you change Confederate names?

WP

Wayne Lutton, Ph.D. <waynelutton@gmail.com>

Thu 10/14/2021 10:45 PM

To: Taylor <taylor@aya.yale.edu>

Cc: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



I vote yes. Good letter.

On Thu, Oct 14, 2021 at 4:48 PM Taylor <taylor@aya.yale.edu> wrote:

Dear Confederate Names Task Force,

I understand the desire to rename things, but why don't you let the voters decide? Isn't that what democracy is for?

Polling is not expensive. Rather than spending months talking to probably unrepresentative people, please put the question to a vote.

What possible objections can you have to such a solution?

Sincerely yours,
Samuel Taylor
2705 Green Holly Springs Court, Oakton, VA 22124
703 716-0930

Reply | **Reply all** | **Forward**

Survey to Change Names of Highways

RS

Rita Semenov <ritaseme@msn.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 12:16 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Hi and thank you for addressing this issue!

Yes, I'm thrilled, please DO change the names of Lee, Lee-Jackson, Mosby highways, and others named for Confederate generals. High time to quit glorifying these proponents of a culture of racism and slavery.

While we're on the subject, let's also change the sad and gruesome name of "Gallows Road" to something that we could be more proud of.

Thanks again and best wishes,

Rita Semenov
6807 Kincaid Ave
Falls Church, VA 22042
703-618-0351

Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**

Kearny-Stevens Memorial Highway

CT

Chad Tucker <chadetucker@gmail.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 12:26 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Dear Task Force Members,

In July of 2020, I wrote to my Virginia Delegate and State Senator recommending Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway be renamed to **Kearny-Stevens Memorial Highway**, for the reasons that follow. Both Senator Marsden and Delegate Bulova wrote back in support of this suggestion.

Lee and Jackson were historically connected to this stretch of road—as villains—and I suggest we should instead honor the heroes of the same story.

After the U.S. Army's defeat at the Second Battle of Bull Run, Lee directed Jackson to flank the Union position, marching down Little River Turnpike (now the stretch of US-50 in question) to cut off the U.S. Army's retreat to our nation's Capital. Had the maneuver been successful, the C.S.A. could have captured Washington, D.C.

On September 1, 1862, at the Battle of Chantilly (also called the Battle of Ox Hill), a U.S. Army force, outnumbered more than 3-to-1, held off Jackson's flanking maneuver in the area near what is now Fair Oaks Mall, giving the rest of the Union army time to withdraw to the defense of Washington. During this action, both U.S. Army major generals involved, Phillip Kearny and Isaac Stevens, were killed while attacking C.S.A positions.

I encourage you to visit Ox Hill Battlefield Park (website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ox-hill>), maintained by the Fairfax County Parks Authority at West Ox Road and Monument Drive in the Fair Lakes area, which holds cenotaphs to both Kearny and Stevens. More importantly, I encourage you to rename that stretch of US-50 as the "**Kearny-Stevens Memorial Highway**," to honor the memory of those men who died there defending our country from the traitorous assaults of Lee and Jackson.

This renaming would preserve the history of the area, while putting our county on the right side of it.

Best,

Chad Tucker
11422 Tiger Lily Lane, Fairfax VA 22030
(240) 273-8922
chadetucker@gmail.com

Confederate Names Task Force

H

hologram@cox.net

Fri 10/15/2021 2:47 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



To Whom it may concern,

I have lived in Fairfax Virginia since 1994.

I do NOT want the names of Lee Highway or Lee Jackson Memorial Highway to change.

Sincerely,

Laura Schuberg

Reply | **Forward**

Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy Name

DH

Danny Halim <dhalim76@gmail.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 4:11 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Task Force members,

Please don't waste taxpayers money and resources to change road names.

The road name has been around for awhile, it has become our landmark, our reference for direction/navigation, and most of us do not associate the road name with the US history.

Focus the effort, resources, and money to clean up the Lee Jackson Memorial Highway:

- clean up the trash, beautify our roads
- prevent homeless beggars (they look healthy and capable to work) to hang around the traffic lights - give them work to clean the road instead
- provide better pedestrian facilities

Every minute you spend to meet about this topic can be used to make improvements instead!

Danny Halim
+1 (703) 980-5192

Reply | **Forward**

Lee-Jackson Highway renaming

DW

Diane Williams <dianewms@aol.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 5:01 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



No one will probably buy this, but, rather than rename Lee-Jackson highway, REDEDICATE it to these notable Virginians instead.

Richard Henry Lee: an American statesman and Founding Father from Virginia, best known for the June 1776 Lee Resolution, the motion in the Second Continental Congress calling for the colonies' independence from Great Britain leading to the United States Declaration of Independence, which he signed.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_family>

Congressman John George Jackson from Clarksburg (then Virginia prior to the Civil War):

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_G._Jackson_\(politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_G._Jackson_(politician))

John George Jackson is my 4th great grandfather and brother-in-law to President James and Dolly Madison.

Diane Williams
7478 Zanuck Ct.
Annandale, VA 22003

Reply | Forward

Fw: Confederate Names Task Force

ES

Eric Stewart <edubstew@yahoo.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 10:33 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Eric Stewart" <edubstew@yahoo.com>

To: "DOTInfo@fairfaxcounty.gov" <DOTInfo@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Sent: Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 7:29 AM

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force

Good Morning,

My name is Eric Stewart I live in Mason Neck Virginia. I have lived in Virginia for all 36 years of my life born and raised. I hope this email reaches the correct people. I just want my opposition to the changing of these names to be known. General Robert E. Lee and General Stonewall Jackson are well deserving to keep the roads named after them. They were honorable men, Christian men, and exceptional Virginia's. Please don't fall to the winds of change, don't change names for change sake.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Reply | Forward

From a long time Virginia Resident

IH

Ingrid Hohlfelder <rsingrid@me.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 11:12 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



History is history leave our history alone. Quit taking down statues and renaming schools and roads.

I weep for my grandchildren.

Thank you for allowing our feedback.

Ingrid Hohlfelder
41915 Quickstep Pl
Aldie Va. 20105

703/939-4174

Reply | **Forward**

Renaming of Confederacy related highways

KK

Kevin Kilcoyne <kwkilcoyne@icloud.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 11:19 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Task Force members,

As can be seen from the large amount of renaming efforts currently underway, it is neither a quick nor inexpensive effort. With this in mind, consideration should be given to a policy of choosing names that do not use the name of a person, living or dead. The likelihood is that at some point in time some human character defect will emerge and calls for renaming will again begin. One need only consider recent examples such as Bill Cosby to reinforce the point.

Respectfully submitted.

Kevin Kilcoyne

Sent from my iPad

Reply | **Forward**

Dont change highway names

G

ghog36 <ghog36@aol.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 11:34 AM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force

Why do you ask for feedback. You will do what you want.

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

Reply | Forward



Lee Highway name change

AM

allen mears <allen.mears@cox.net>

Fri 10/15/2021 12:32 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Good morning:

My ancestors fought on both sides in the Civil War; infantry soldiers with the Union and navy sailors in the confederacy. I see no reason to change the name of Lee Highway.

Sincerely,

Cdr. Allen Mears
USN (Retired)
1419 Buena Vista Avenue
McLean, VA 22101
703-847-9079



[Reply](#) | [Forward](#)

Renaming Lee Highway

JR

John Rickards <jdrickards@cox.net>

Fri 10/15/2021 12:54 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



Quit trying to erase history. Learn from it not rewrite it. It's no wonder our youth have no knowledge of our countries history when it is being erased over political correctness.

John Rickards

Sent from my iPhone

Reply | **Forward**

CHANGING THE NAME OF 29/50

DS

Denise Stalaker <dstalaker@fhfurr.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 1:19 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force



PLEASE FIND SOMETHING BETTER TO SPEND YOUR TIME AND OUR HARD WORKING TAX PAYERS MONEY ON! HOW ABOUT PARKS AND RECREATION? FIRST RESPONDERS?

Thank you,

| Denise Stalaker

Reply | **Forward**

Renaming Highways

BT

Bob thompson <wthrspn2000@yahoo.com>

Fri 10/15/2021 1:40 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force

Please stop!

Thank you,
BThompson

Reply | **Forward**



Watson, Malcolm

To: Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Dominguez, Noelle C.; Nissinen, Anna; Geiger, Robin
Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Comment Received

Chair Spain and others,

I received a call from Mrs. Linda Osbourne and her husband, Lewis. They recently saw the media coverage of Fairfax County's Confederate Names Task Force. She requested that I type the statement below and share it with the Taskforce.

Linda and Lewis Osbourne:

We do not want the name changed. Some of our best friends are descendants of Robert E. Lee. The tearing down of monuments and changing street names is horrifying. One of our friends was offered to store a Lee statue. We're generational Virginians, and we have a long history of church affiliation at Mountain View Methodist Church, which was built in 1888, where our grandparents, other family members, and many veterans lie. Virginia is a beautiful state, and it is not a racist state, and we will not be divided. My great grandfather was the superintendent of schools many years ago. We have one hundred family members that reside in Virginia. And we're split, democrats, republicans, and independent. We also have bi-racial family members. Changing the street names will not change true Virginians. We will not be divided. We are a caring and giving state.

Watson, Malcolm

Subject: FW: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

From: evelyn spain

Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 9:35 AM

To: edtw1661@gmail.com

Cc:

Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Ed,

I appreciate your sending the comment you would like included in the CNTF minutes.

I apologize for the correction to the correct use of Asian Americans.

I mistakenly stated all emails had been sent. Moving forward, I will confirm this has happened before speaking on this next week.

Thank you for your comments.

Evelyn

[Evelyn Spain MBA, LSSGB, CMMI ATM](#)

"When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have a moral obligation to do something, to say something, and not be quiet." **John Lewis**

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw1661@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 8:21 AM
To: 'Evelyn Spain'; Kristi Dooley
Cc: Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; 'Juliette R Shedd'
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good morning Evelyn,

Just getting back to you on that bullet point in the September 20 minutes. What I said was something like this: While we heard a lot about One Fairfax, DEI, and Inclusion at our first meeting, this Task Force *is NOT Inclusive*—rather it is *deliberately Exclusive*. We are *deliberately excluding* the voters and taxpayers of Fairfax County. No thirty hand-picked individuals should make recommendations for changing primary highway names because a question like that *should only be on a ballot referendum*.

And the BOS knows it, which is why it created this TF to provide political cover. All the name change efforts have cost hundreds of thousands already and likely millions more and much disruption before it's done. The BOS does not trust its own voters on this matter, as I've said before.

Also, you jumped the gun in correcting me about "Asian-Americans." I didn't appreciate it. I was referencing Korean, Chinese, and Urdu speakers who likely know next to nothing about the U.S. Civil War, or how something as mundane as street names can cause such headaches in 21st century America. They would probably have no opinion about names at all, or could care less. That's all I was trying to say. Concern about political correctness was misplaced. Indeed, why would any immigrant be concerned about what Americans name our highways and subdivision streets? Yet, this TF presumes to think otherwise. In my humble opinion, the entire name issue is political correctness and wokeness.

Given the many comments and concerns I heard last night regarding the wording of the survey questions, it is my view that the rush to get out the survey by October 13 is misplaced. We are not ready for that as Mr. Floyd said at the close of our meeting, and I agree. However, TF planners have said that the survey has no statistical validity, so perhaps unclear language is not that important?? However it is, I think more thought and better wordsmithing would be the best course. We should not cut corners to meet an artificial deadline.

Now, regarding all the assurances that my e-mails had been sent to all members, I found out late yesterday that was not the case as the e-mail below indicates:

From: Watson, Malcolm _____
>**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Edtw1661@gmail.com
Subject: Email Messages

Mr. Wenzel,

We're compiling email messages that came through the Confederate Names Task Force website portal and those correspondences received directly by staff. *I'm reaching out to ensure that you're okay with sharing your email messages with Taskforce members. Please advise. [emphasis added]*

I also learned at last night's meeting that others have had the same e-mail experience. The blackout on information sharing has kept TF members in the dark about other members' concerns and comments. You remember my first e-mail with all the links (Sept. 14th) that I had to repeatedly ask about to get released? Based on the e-mail above, I presume that all TF members' e-mails expressing concerns to the Chair or staff will be sent out shortly.

I know you have a very difficult task and I do appreciate your hard work. But if the voters were permitted to decide (as they rightly should), none of us would have to be doing any of this.

Thank you and very respectfully,
Ed Wenzel

From: edtw1661@gmail.com <edtw1661@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 2:04 PM
To: 'Evelyn Spain'
Cc:
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Thank you, Evelyn. See you tonight.

Ed Wenzel

From: Evelyn Spain <evelynss328@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:52 AM
To: kristi dooley
Cc:
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

I agree with with everything stated in Kristi's email. I stand by the decisions that have been voted on by the members of CNTF Subcommittee, the deadline set by the BOS and confirm all CNTF subcommittee correspondence has been shared by Malcolm.

Thank you for sharing thoughts.

Chair Spain

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 10, 2021, at 8:58 PM, kristi dooley wrote:

Hi Ed,

What the subgroup agreed to was the one page sheet that Blake and Shirley worked on and the that the subgroup approved (the Task Force purpose and historical context of the highway names) being at the beginning of the survey's online version, as well as on the front page of the paper version of the survey, as a handout at the public feedback meetings, and as information that will be placed on the web site as

well. Since the postcard being sent countywide links all county residents to the web site where this information is already included, there was no other conversation about a need for any additional link. Anyone who goes to the link on the postcard will already find that information there. Hopefully that addresses your concerns.

With respect to the timing of the process, we are very clear with the Board's intent for the timeframe in which the work is to be completed, and we are proceeding accordingly, as we've shared with you. Please note that doesn't preclude you from voicing your own concerns to your Board member at any time.

To my knowledge, we have not received any other emails from Task Force members with additional information or requests since our last meeting on September 20 (other than a few emails coordinating aspects of the subgroup's work). I think Malcolm has sent out to the full Task Force your emails that have detailed your concerns about timing and any other content-related issues. Just wanted to put you at ease with respect to that. You aren't missing any other correspondence from other TF members because there hasn't been any.

Hope that's helpful. Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow night!

Best,
Kristi

From: <edtw1661@gmail.com>
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3:49 PM
To: 'evelyn spain' _____
Cc: "" _____
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn, _____

There are a few problems here.

- 1) Did the sub-group quorum realize that the historical basis for the highway names *had no link* on the post card before they voted to accept it? I certainly did not. I have no notes of planners or facilitators calling attention to that fact, or of anyone noting it beforehand. Am I wrong? Perhaps others did and said nothing about it, but I myself did not realize that the post card lacked that information. I only noticed it when I returned home from the Oct. 7 meeting.
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- 4) Among the meeting materials for Monday Oct. 11 (sent late Friday, Oct. 8) I find no attachment containing the e-mails and messages exchanged between members, staff, and facilitators since our last full meeting on September 20. That's a three week stretch in which TF members remain uninformed and out of the loop on important points raised

between myself and the Chair, organizers, and facilitators. Where are those messages? Will the other TF members see them? And where are their messages? I assume that I am not the only one with points to make, and that others are having input too. I'd appreciate knowing their views as well.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: evelyn spain _____
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:21 AM
To: edtw1661@gmail.com
Cc: _____
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group _____

Morning Ed, _____

Thank you for your feedback. The website will contain the "Overview" link. This will allow the reader to click on the link and go directly to the overview information. Please note the quorum of subcommittee members voted on accepting the postcard as it currently stands.

We have addressed the timeline concerns numerous times, both in the CNTF meetings and with the BOS. Our commitment to meeting the deadline as stated in the initial scope remains the same.

Best,

Evelyn

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 8:53 PM, edtw1661@gmail.com wrote:

Yes, good evening Evelyn,

It took me a while to realize that the card did not include a link to background on the highway names. When the post card was first presented on Sept. 28, the task force did not intend it to be mailed to all residences. I then raised the issue about excluding voters and taxpayers. Now that it will be mailed to all residences (as per last night), the reasons for including the "Highway Overviews" are critical for informed decision making. Surely there is space on the card for another line with a link. That time is short

is understood. However, my suggestion that the task force inform the BOS that their deadline should be extended was deemed not possible. Why, I don't know. Sometimes plans have to be changed.

I do know that the BOS wants this business wrapped up asap so they can take their vote. But the pace at which the process is moving is almost dizzying. I have a blitz of paper here and TF staff and facilitators are working overtime to produce more. Frankly, I think it would be prudent to slow down the train and give us time to think things through—like what should go on the postcards—not hasten the train onward with safety checks not made. We need time to think and consider, and not be rushed to the finish line.

Thank you for your patience on this important matter,
Ed Wenzel

PS The "Overview" link should not only be on the post cards, but on the web site as well.

From: Spain, Evelyn _____
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 7:36 PM
To: edtw1661@gmail.com
Cc: _____
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Evening Ed, _____

Thank you so much for the compliment.

I don't recall that the postcard was ever going to include a link to the "Highway Overviews". Understanding how strongly you feel that this information needs to be shared with the public, you can ask if its' possible to put it on the website provided the Task Force agrees. Please remember, we are up against a tight deadline and it was strongly stated that changes unless it's a grave error, can not be made at this late stage.

By all means please feel free to share your concerns during the meeting on Monday. Please also let the group know you are happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Dr Shedd and I rode by there Thursday night on the way home from our meeting.

Thank you for offering.

Best,

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

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Good afternoon Evelyn,

Sorry for the delay. Yes, I am very happy that the TF has decided to mail post cards to County residences. That's good. And I compliment you and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the "Highway Overviews" which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the "overview info" should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

Also, on the "Overview" sheet, under "Highway Overviews," in the next line, after each highway's name, I suggest adding the words "How this highway got its name." That will make it clear what the "Overview" is about.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS My concerns remain about the BOS motivation on these names. We all know what they did last year (which in my view was absolutely disgraceful), and what they want recommended on these names. I hope and pray that the uniqueness of Fairfax County's Civil War heritage is not further erased by guilt and politics-driven wokeness. Every locality has a "sense of place" and the Civil War put a massive stamp on Fairfax County. It is our history and it should not be subjected to cultural cleansing. As I said last night, I would happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park for anyone who might be interested.

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Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 10:13 AM
To: edtw1661@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group
Morning Ed,

I believe we addressed this last evening during our sub committee meeting. Please let me know if you have any additional concerns around the USPS item.

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 7, 2021, at 9:33 AM, edtw1661@gmail.com wrote:

Mr. Watson,
I received no reply yesterday to my query about the Sub-Group minutes not containing an important point of information: That the Task Force *will not utilize* the USPS to provide information to all Fairfax County households regarding changing the highway names. Instead, other selective means will be used for sampling purposes, but nothing will be targeted at the voters/taxpayers. The minutes should reflect that the Task Force will not use the USPS to contact voters on this important matter.
Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: edtw1661@gmail.com <edtw1661@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:14 AM
To: 'Watson, Malcolm

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for forwarding the minutes of the Sub-Group meeting last week. I noticed there is one point missing from those minutes: I believe I asked whether the public survey would be mailed to all households in Fairfax County (via USPS) in order to give all voters and taxpayers the opportunity to respond to the proposed highway name changes. I noted that the response to this question was negative and that other means of communication were planned such as Supervisor's on-line newsletters, mailouts of postcards to the business community nearest the highways, County websites, chambers of commerce, social media (someone said millennials get their information there), "hashtags," and probably other means which I have forgotten. In any event, those means of outreach are limited and do not include the vast majority of Fairfax citizens.

I firmly believe that Fairfax voters and taxpayers should decide this name issue on a ballot referendum. That's the only "fair" way to decide whether or not to change the names of two primary highways that have existed here for 100 years— names that reflect the Civil War heritage of Fairfax County and make us unique in the Washington area. I've raised this issue several times before but no one seems interested in the logic of it. I think I understand why. The BOS does not want voters weighing in because they might reject the costly and ideologically driven agenda and cast their votes to keep the existing names. And the BOS wants those names and history erased. So no referendum, and they appoint a task force guided by paid contract facilitators to steer us toward name changes. For the BOS, that's much easier to accomplish than convincing hundreds of thousands of taxpayers and voters to agree with their anti-heritage and anti-Civil War name hysteria.

I strongly urge the task force to halt the planned path we are on and inform the BOS that in fairness to all the people of Fairfax, they should call a voter referendum to decide this issue. Any other device that's used to effect name changes is merely a way of avoiding the common sense and wisdom of the voters. No thirty individuals on a "task force" should decide for 1.2 million residents, and no BOS should arbitrarily change those names without voter agreement.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM
To: Spain, Evelyn
Subject: - Public

Engagement Sub-Group

Chair Spain and others,

In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7,
attached are the meeting minutes for your review and
comment.

~~Thanks in advance.~~ Please let me know if I have missed
~~something or misrepresented~~ any topics discussed at
the meeting.

Malcolm Watson



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

To my fellow Fairfax patriots on the Confederate Names Task Force,

Friends, I am sending you this letter so my voice may be heard amongst the many concerns expressed during the September 20th meeting. I am confident each of you is a patriotic citizen, and I am sincere in my conclusion each of you wants what is best for Fairfax County and your community. A little about me, I am native Southern white male from a blended race family. Growing up, we opened our home to African exchange students, all of whom I'm still friends with today, and this experience fundamentally shaped my world view. I'm a civilian staff officer for the Headquarters Dept. of the Army, and I fundamentally believe all people are created equal and racism has no place anywhere in the United States.

I agreed to participate on this Task Force because I have pragmatic concerns about changing street names and the unintended consequences to the communities impacted. Based on the data available to us, how do we know if there will be second or third order negative impacts? If even one human life (black, white, or other) is harmed because the GPS in a 911 dispatch hasn't updated, and can't find an accident site on formerly Lee-Jackson HWY, is this worth it? I don't know if this is a problem or not. These are data points we're missing.

Yesterday, when I attempted to raise these concerns, I was silenced abruptly, told “this is not in our purview,” and my concerns were not heard. – THIS WAS WRONG.

Week one, we universally agreed we wanted to be heard. The September 20th meeting discouraged me, and is therefore the reason I am sending you this letter. Months ago, I voiced similar concerns about cost, public safety, and impact to local businesses to Supervisor Walkinshaw, and he invited me to join the task force specifically to provide this perspective (see enclosed email).

I'm concerned how much this will cost because I don't want my taxes to go up at a time when we've all felt inflation and economic strain during the pandemic. This expense was not earmarked in the 2022 budget, and I have genuine concerns about fiscal transparency within the Fairfax County government. I also have honest concerns about the impact on local businesses and residents on both roadways. This will cost them money. Rebranding websites, updating address, and “Lee Highway” is written on shipping orders all over the place. At a time when businesses are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, is this really a good move? What will be the impact to 911 dispatchers? Road names have been changed in Fairfax County before (e.g. Jefferson Davis Highway), and I believe these answers exist and would provide valuable data points for us to make an informed decision whether or not to recommend changing anything to the Board of Supervisors.

At risk of providing too much in one letter, I also want to offer some perspective why Southerners often still see Robert E. Lee as an icon. The institution of slavery was so evil, and the thought of dividing the United States so heinous that Southerners who sacrificed so much—economic ruin and more than ¼ of the male population dead—were desperate for something to be proud of. Placing aside the politics around the war, Generals Lee and Jackson were tactically brilliant and military academies around the world still study their campaigns today. Furthermore, Lee's post-war example made him one of the most important figures in

reunification of the Nation. Many Southerners wanted to continue to fight a gorilla war for years, but he refused, and many followed his example to return to the Union. After the war, Lee also used his influence to encourage peace between the races, expelling white students from Washington College for harassing black citizens of Lexington. To underscore the roll Lee played in reunification of the Nation, in the book *Crucible of Command*, biographer William C. Davis (who is not a Lost Cause proponent) references a movement in New York and Pennsylvania to encourage Ulysses Grant to run for President with Lee as his Vice-Presidential running mate.

Consider also what the Virginia Museum of History & Culture says: “Those who argue that he chose to fight for slavery rather than against it, and that this is all one needs to know about Lee, lose sight of the extent of the sacrifice that he made. His decision was not about defending slavery; it was about doing what he thought was right.”

<https://virginiahistory.org/learn/historical-book/chapter/reconciliation>

You do not have to agree with any of this interpretation of history, but Fairfax County cannot fundamentally be an “Inclusive” society without acknowledging these types of opinions and that there are residents who feel this way. To be very clear, I am referring to honest residents with a different interpretation of history who simultaneously respect the rights of all mankind. I don’t really care about the feelings of racial supremacists because their ignorance negates any reasonably public consideration.

Inclusivity requires us to make room for people of all races, genders, sexual orientations, political leanings, and those who have a different historic or cultural background to our own. Fairfax County’s mantra should be to build new monuments and name new streets to represent everyone, and not to destroy or rename; these actions are divisive and exclude citizens who feel their opinions are not valued. Add more, not less.

It is not my intention to upset anyone, and I’m not an argumentative or heartless person. I love all people, I love my community, and I would not participate in this Task Force were I not convinced of its genuinely good-hearted value. God Bless all of you, and thank you for receiving my thoughts.

Very respectfully,

Robert H. Floyd

Enclosure

From: BraddockBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov,
To: roberthfloyd@aol.com,
Cc: Sally.Kidalov@fairfaxcounty.gov, Frank.Anderson@fairfaxcounty.gov,
Subject: Task Force on Lee Highway and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway
Date: Mon, Mar 1, 2021 5:43 pm

Hello Mr. Floyd,

Hope you're doing well. I'm reaching out because of your interest in the Confederate Names inventory and the county's process for considering the renaming of such sites. As you may be aware, the Board of Supervisors is putting together a task force to discuss the two major roadways identified, Lee Highway and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. As Braddock is one of the districts through which these roads run, we are appointing individuals to the task force. This group will be charged with developing an outreach process for engaging the community, receiving input on whether to change the names, and potentially considering alternate names. If the task force recommends changing the names, it will suggest a short list of names to be incorporated into a community survey. Following this, the Board of Supervisors would hold one or more public hearings and then consider whether it wants to keep the road names the same or change them.

While we can't predict the outcome, I think it is likely that the majority of this task force will be in support of changing the names. That may or may not be your position but based on your interest and the respectable conversations we've had, Supervisor Walkinshaw thought your perspective would be valuable.

If you'd like to participate, please let us know. The time commitment would be roughly one virtual meeting per month for a span of three to six months.

Thanks,

Frank Anderson

Watson, Malcolm

From: Evelyn Spain
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:52 AM
To:
Cc: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Subject:

Morning Ed,

I agree with with everything stated in Kristi's email. I stand by the decisions that have been voted on by the members of CNTF Subcommittee, the deadline set by the BOS and confirm all CNTF subcommittee correspondence has been shared by Malcolm.

Thank you for sharing thoughts.

Chair Spain

Sent from my iPhone

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Hope that's helpful. Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow night!

Best,
Kristi

From: <edtw
Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3:49 PM
To: 'evelyn spain'
Cc:
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn,

There are a few problems here.

- 1) Did the sub-group quorum realize that the historical basis for the highway names *had no link* on the post card before they voted to accept it? I certainly did not. I have no notes of planners or facilitators calling attention to that fact, or of anyone noting it beforehand. Am I wrong? Perhaps others did and said nothing about it, but I myself did not realize that the post card lacked that information. I only noticed it when I returned home from the Oct. 7 meeting.
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Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

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Best,

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Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

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Thank you for your patience on this important matter,
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PS The “Overview” link should not only be on the post cards, but on the web site as well.

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Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 7:36 PM

To: [edtw](#)

Cc:

Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

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Thank you for forwarding the minutes of the Sub-Group meeting last week. I noticed there is one point missing from those minutes: I believe I asked whether the public survey would be mailed to all households in Fairfax County (via USPS) in order to give all voters and taxpayers the opportunity to respond to the proposed highway name changes. I noted that the response to this question was negative and that other means of communication were planned such as Supervisor's on-line newsletters, mailouts of postcards to the business community nearest the highways, County websites, chambers of commerce, social media (someone said millennials get their information there), "hashtags," and probably other means which I have forgotten. In any event, those means of outreach are limited and do not include the vast majority of Fairfax citizens.

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I strongly urge the task force to halt the planned path we are on and inform the BOS that in fairness to all the people of Fairfax, they should call a voter referendum to decide this issue. Any other device that's used to effect name changes is merely a way of avoiding the common sense and wisdom of the voters. No thirty individuals on a "task force" should decide for 1.2 million residents, and no BOS should arbitrarily change those names without voter agreement.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm<
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM

To: Spain, Evelyn

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public

Engagement Sub-Group Chair Spain and others, In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7, attached are the meeting minutes for your review and comment. Thanks in advance. Please let me know if I have missed something or misrepresented any topics discussed at the meeting.

Malcolm Watson



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Watson, Malcolm; Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Kristi Dooley; Dominguez, Noelle C.; Nissinen, Anna; Geiger, Robin; 'Juliette R Shedd'
Subject: RE: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Thank you, Mr. Watson, for forwarding the messages below. I hope these and other member's messages will be provided to the rest of the Task Force well before the next regular meeting. I await seeing the comments of other TF members..

Thank you, sir.
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 3:30 PM
To: edtw; Spain, Evelyn
Cc:
Subject: RE: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Good afternoon Chair Spain and Mr. Wenzel, Thank you both for following up. It is our sincere intention to remain as transparent as possible as we move through this process. Regarding Mr. Wenzel's email sent to Ms. Dooley on September 14, please refer to the attached document, which compiles the email and text messages we received prior to the meeting on September 20. Mr. Wenzel's email begins on page five and concludes with links directing people to additional information on Lee Highway and supplementary material by Walter Williams on page seven.

Thanks again,
Malcolm Watson
Transportation Planner

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Kristi Dooley
Subject: RE: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Good morning, Ms. Spain,

Thank you for following up on this matter. I have two comments:

One: The BOS is on public record with its opinion and with actions already taken—that Confederate names and memorials are "offensive" and should be changed or removed. I'm sure that the Task Force organizers and facilitators

know this and are steering the Task Force to that end. Facilitator statements made at the subgroup meeting last week confirm this.

Two: In regard to the exclusion of Fairfax Voters from deciding the fate of the names, why is that “out of our scope?” Is our task force not permitted to question the BOS? Is the issue of fairness regarding these names not our concern? Task Force members were led through DEI at our very first meeting, so “fairness” must rate very high with Task Force organizers and facilitators.

I would ask the Chair to stand for fairness, and to go back to the BOS with a strong recommendation that the voters and tax payers of Fairfax County are the ones who ought to decide whether the names of Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway should be changed. The BOS is already on public record with their intolerance and bigotry regarding Confederate names and associations in Fairfax County. Why would this Task Force bow to supervisors who have displayed so much animosity already?

“A country that forgets its past has no future.” Churchill.

Ed Wenzel

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 8:54 AM
To: [edtw](#); Watson, Malcolm
Cc: Kristi Dooley
Subject: Re: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14, and other matters

Morning Mr. Wenzel,

I believe the September 14th email was sent out but I am following up with Mr Watson right after I send you this email. I do appreciate your passion and commitment to ensuring the Confederate Names Task Force and as stated earlier, the BOS will accept whatever recommendation we bring to the December 2021 board meeting. In my mind that means they have an open mind and will consider all options.

We will ensure as a unified group that we vote on whatever message the Confederate Names Task Force agrees upon before bringing it to the BOS and public engagement activities. As far as allowing the constituents of Fairfax to vote on this matter , it has already been discussed that this is out of our scope and has been put to rest.

Let me reiterate, moving forward I will ensure we vote on every item, concern, or suggestion made within the CNTF sub committee and full membership groups. This will so ensure have a documented record of decisions made as we move forward.

I have spoken with Mr.Watson and advised him to please share this email chain with the rest of the CNTF.

Thank you,

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 1, 2021, at 6:28 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Ms. Evelyn Spain, Chair,
Confederate Names Task Force

Dear Ms. Spain,

I regret having to bother you again, but you should know that my Sept. 14th e-mail which addressed Lee Highway and other related matters, still has not been disseminated to Task Force members. [See e-mails below and especially the subject e-mail at the bottom.] How are we to communicate information to other members if our messages are held for weeks before being released only days before the next meeting? This severely handicaps TF members and prevents critical information from being disseminated in a timely fashion. Please see what's holding up distribution of my e-mail which contains six links to the history of Lee Highway and Gen. R.E. Lee, and four links to columns by Walter E. Washington that are relevant to this matter. TF members should have seen this information long ago.

In regard to the Sept. 28 subgroup meeting, there were two statements made by the facilitators that I found disturbing. First, that the mission of this task force is "not to educate," and secondly, that they want us to "move away from the past and toward the future." "What do we want today?" as one asked. Those statements confirm what has been obvious to me since the beginning—that Task Force organizers and facilitators are there to lead this group in the direction of name changes. I have commented before that the BOS wants these highway names changed, just as they do any name or memorial that reflects or acknowledges Confederate heritage in this county. We have been assured at our meetings that the BOS has made no decisions about the highway names, but that's not believable. Supervisor's statements, past actions, correspondence, media coverage, and TF documents are clear about what the BOS wants. I believe that this Task Force was conceived to provide political cover for a decision that has already been made and that's why we are being led "away from the past (Civil War heritage) and toward the future"—whatever that means. However, we can be assured that the BOS' vision for Fairfax does not include reminders of the Civil War, especially any Confederate reminders.

At our first meeting in August, we heard a lecture about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion—the message being (I suppose) that there is something wrong with names that reflect our Civil War past, at least in the minds of some. I have commented that "diversity" means a multiplicity, a variety, more than one, etc. Yet, in this case, the BOS seeks to erase diversity, just as they did with the perfectly fine Marr monument which stood beside the street where the first action of the war occurred. Why? Because *Marr was a Confederate*, period. I call that bigotry and intolerance. That monument wasn't even "to" Capt. Marr. The inscription only gave a bearing and distance to where his body was found—the first Confederate to die in action in the war. Nothing else. The removal of that landmark monument and the two cannon was a disgraceful gesture to "wokeness" that robbed Fairfax County and Fairfax City of a 116-year-old historical monument and an important remembrance of Civil War heritage in Fairfax.

I support the diverse groups who populate Fairfax County today, as does everyone else I know. However, as a native of this area, I am conscious of the Confederate history in a county that voted overwhelmingly for secession. I am also well acquainted with the two monuments to Union Generals Kearny and Stevens who were killed in the Battle of Ox Hill near Rt. 50. No one has suggested that those two monuments be removed or be hidden in a warehouse, or be "contextualized." The fact that Union monuments exist at all in this county, is a tribute to John Ballard, a former Confederate cavalryman (of Mosby's command) who owned the farm where the battle was fought. It was Ballard and his wife, Mary, who gave the land to Union soldiers so they could erect monuments to their fallen generals. And it was Ballard who led the effort to put up the monument beside Main Street in Fairfax

marking Marr's death in the first action of the war (Fairfax C. H. Raid, June 1, 1861). While Fairfax County brags that we are the "Gateway to America's Heritage," the current BOS has proven that they only care about certain heritage, and have been quick to dismiss and condemn Confederate heritage for which, except for slavery, they show zero understanding.

I am for everyone's heritage. If names or reminders are needed to reflect other heritage in Fairfax, I think you will find interested parties in local groups, including myself, who would look favorably on such an endeavor. Reminders of people who were enslaved on farms in the county, or their descendants who accomplished so much during the Jim Crow era would certainly be worthy of recognition. We do have a "diverse" heritage here and it covers a broad spectrum. That said, the Civil War dominates the history of Virginia and of Fairfax, and it was the defining event in the history of America. The death toll was staggering. With a population of only 31 million people in both the north and south, 750,000 perished (including civilians).

The names Lee highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway in Fairfax are an important part of our Civil War heritage. They give Fairfax a sense of place in northern Virginia where so much of the war occurred, and they distinguish us from other counties in the Washington area. Fairfax is the place where Lee and Jackson brought the war to the doorstep of Washington, when only 90 days before, the Federal army was at the gates of Richmond. Such was the tactical genius of Lee and Jackson (and Longstreet), that in three months' time they were able to defeat two Union armies and transfer the war from Richmond to Fairfax County (Ox Hill) in the shadow of the Union capitol dome. Lee and Jackson were Virginia heroes and are forever linked in Confederate memory. Even foes and military officers abroad praised their military tactics and what they accomplished with inferior numbers. No matter their human faults, Lee and Jackson will always command respect as American military leaders of the highest caliber.

I have also commented that "inclusion," as in DEI, is not what this TF is about. The Confederate Names Task Force is actually about "exclusion." The Task Force, despite its planned "community engagement" with post cards, social media, websites, hash tags, chambers of commerce, and other such targets, will come up short and will exclude hundreds of thousands of Fairfax voters from having any say in whether or not these century-old highway names are removed. I have mentioned twice before that no 30 hand-picked people, nor the BOS itself, should have any right to change the names of primary highways without a voter referendum. To be "fair"—as I'm certain we all believe we are—Fairfax voters should be included in any decision of this magnitude. But, perhaps the BOS does not trust the voters to make the "correct" decision? I think any plan that excludes a referendum is designed to usher name changes through the bureaucratic system before anyone can stop it. And that's why the BOS will not rescind its artificial December deadline.

On a final note, the History Commission report has been praised as the last word on Confederate names. However, there are some errors and distortions in that document and the TF should be careful what it cites.

I hope you can disseminate my Sept. 14th e-mail before any more time passes. (See bottom of this thread.) Also, please make sure that this e-mail is forwarded to members as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 11:07 AM

To: 'Watson, Malcolm'
Cc: 'Spain, Evelyn' ; 'Kristi Dooley'
Subject: Missing e-mail , Sept. 14

Mr. Watson,

Concerning the missing e-mail (below, Sept. 14) that was not included in the packet sent out prior to our Sept. 20 meeting—when do you anticipate that TF members will see it? Waiting until a few days before the next meeting (Oct. 11) is not good. That e-mail information (including 10 relevant links) should have been seen and read prior to the last regular meeting. It was unfortunate that it was not in the packet. The sooner that members receive it the better.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 3:06 PM
To: 'Spain, Evelyn'
Subject: RE:

Thanks you, Ms. Spain. Looking forward to tonight's meeting.

Regards,
Ed Wenzel

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2021 7:03 PM
To: [edtw](#)
Cc: Watson, Malcolm; Kristi Dooley

Subject: Re:

Dear Mr. Wendell,

Thank you for notifying us that one of your emails is missing. I will check in with Malcom first thing Monday morning to ensure he sends out your Sept 14th email. Please be assured that it is our intention to remain transparent throughout the Confederate Names Task Force process.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Sep 18, 2021, at 2:17 PM, [edtw](#) wrote:

Ms. Evelyn Spain,
Chair, Confederate Names Task Force

Dear Ms. Spain,

I want to call your attention to the e-mails I sent to Ms. Dooley this past week (Sept. 14 and 16) relative to the topics being considered by the TF. In the Messages and Tweets attachment received from Mr. Watson yesterday, I noticed that my Sept. 14 message is missing. That e-mail concerned the meeting last Monday (Sept. 13) and included five links to important Lee Highway information, four links to pertinent columns by Walter E. Williams, and a link to a book review and comments on the Letters and Recollections of R.E. Lee as published by his son in 1904.

The Lee Highway information is critical for TF understanding of why the road was so named, and Walter Williams' columns throw light on Historical Ignorance, Abraham Lincoln, Black history/White Guilt, and DEI "Nonsense" as he terms it. In addition, I included the Lee material as necessary in view of the current narrative that he fought to destroy the U. S. Government, which is not true. Please see that my email of Sept 14 is provided to the TF for their scrutiny.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS I assume that Messages, Tweets, or other communications by TF members to staff will be published in the final report. Is that correct? I want to be certain that pertinent material and other concerns are not excluded from the published report, or from public knowledge. Thanks again.

From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 11:25 PM

To: 'Kristi Dooley'

Subject: Confederate Names and R.E. Lee, Recollections and Letters etc.

Hi Kristi,

At the meeting last night a number of statements were made, including by the guest speaker, that I took some exception to. The format of the meetings is such that one cannot unmute and interject. That would be discourteous to the person speaking. So one must wait, and one person should not monopolize time that has to be shared by all. Also, if I pick up on a point to make, that does not mean that I can formulate the words for a question or comment immediately. So even if I could interject a comment, the time for it passes. I guess I'm not so good at notetaking or articulating thoughts on the fly.

I also perceive that the planners of the agenda assume that most people generally do not know about Lost Cause efforts to minimize slavery, or the exalting of the war effort and the top generals. That may be true for some, but

for those who have studied the war, we have listened to countless lectures over the years and read about most aspects of CW history beyond the battles, i.e.: the legality of secession, state sovereignty and loyalty, Reconstruction, KKK violence, Jubal Early's cabal etc.

Following Reconstruction, white political corruption was (I believe) a direct reaction to the Radical Republicans and the Union Leagues who swarmed the region after the war and helped elect blacks to power at state and local levels—all to ensure a permanent black Republican political base while ex-Confederates were disenfranchised. When one considers Republican efforts to divide freedmen from former masters and whites, does it not throw some light on possible reasons for violence and black voting restrictions as whites corruptly regained power? As evil as it was, one has to look beyond the obvious. For every action, there is a reaction. If you turn a 240-year-old culture and way of life upside-down by force and destruction, and kill 750,000 people while you're at it, wouldn't you expect to encounter bitter resentment that might lead to bad consequences? Could it have been otherwise? Yes, I think it could have.

Below is a link to a "Goodreads" review of a republished *Recollections and Letters of General Robert E. Lee* by his youngest son, Capt. R.E. Lee Jr. in 1904. Be sure to read the entirety of readers comments afterward. I forward this link to counter the view that Lee was simply a "traitor" and a "slaveowner" who wanted to "destroy" the United States. I heard something similar said last night about Lee and Stonewall Jackson. It's the current media narrative which Dr. Tarter knows is not true. <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11061428-recollections-and-letters-of-general-robert-e-lee>

As I mentioned, **Lee Highway** was one of a hundred or more named "Auto Trails" that "good roads" organizations were advocating for in the early 20th century. The nation's roads at that time were little better than they were during the Civil War. The roads were muddy, rutted obstacles at the dawn of the automobile age. When Model T Fords appeared in 1908, they were designed to navigate these horrible roads, but it was obvious to businessmen and local boosters that improved roads were desperately needed. The Great War in Europe and a young army officer named Dwight Eisenhower also figured in the great American road story and the linking together of transcontinental routes under various names.

The links below provide historical context. I think it's obvious that the name "Lee Highway" did not arise from any Jim Crow intention to intimidate or insult black people, or to project "white supremacy." In reality, Lee's name was obvious for a Southern transcontinental route just as the Lincoln Highway was a shoo-in for a Northern route. Remember, this is the 50th Anniversary period and veterans of both sides are still living and Lee was a Southern hero. The background below on **Lee Highway** and the transcontinental road movement should have been a priority for task force agenda planners rather than One Fairfax, DEI, and Mr. Tarter's take on the Lost Cause and white superiority.

Lee Highway

<https://americanroads.us/autotrails/leehighway.html>

Dr. S.M. Johnson, A Dreamer of Dreams. FHA Highway History, The Lee Highway, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Lee Boulevard

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/johnson.cfm>

Zero Milestone in Washington D.C.

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/zero.cfm>

Photo Gallery Along Lee Highway (Mid-1920s)

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/johngal2.cfm>

Lee Highway, Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Highway

Added material:

The links below are columns by the late Walter E. Williams, professor of Economics at GMU. Williams was one of the best thinkers and commentators in the business. A great mind and a clear, succinct writer.

Historical Ignorance of Confederate Generals, 7/22/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/72310-historical-ignorance-and-confederate-generals-2020-07-22>

Abraham Lincoln, 2/20/13

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/16820-abraham-lincoln-2013-02-20>

Insults to Black History, 6/24/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/71596-insults-to-black-history-2020-06-24>

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Nonsense, 9/2/20

<https://patriotpost.us/opinion/73106-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-nonsense-2020-09-02>

Please review the links above and see if you don't think that the task force would benefit from this additional information. Having heard Dr. Tarter's views, I think they would appreciate it. Please forward to each member.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 1:47 PM
To: Spain, Evelyn
Cc: Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; Kristi Dooley; 'Juliette R Shedd'
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn,

Sorry for the delay. Yes, I am very happy that the TF has decided to mail post cards to County residences. That's good. And I compliment you and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the "Highway Overviews" which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the "overview info" should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

Also, on the "Overview" sheet, under "Highway Overviews," in the next line, after each highway's name, I suggest adding the words "How this highway got its name." That will make it clear what the "Overview" is about.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

PS My concerns remain about the BOS motivation on these names. We all know what they did last year (which in my view was absolutely disgraceful), and what they want recommended on these names. I hope and pray that the uniqueness of Fairfax County's Civil War heritage is not further erased by guilt and politics-driven wokeness. Every locality has a "sense of place" and the Civil War put a massive stamp on Fairfax County. It is our history and it should not be subjected to cultural cleansing. As I said last night, I would happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park for anyone who might be interested.

From: Spain, Evelyn
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 10:13 AM
To: edtw
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

I believe we addressed this last evening during our sub committee meeting. Please let me know if you have any additional concerns around the USPS item.

Chair Spain

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 7, 2021, at 9:33 AM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Mr. Watson,

I received no reply yesterday to my query about the Sub-Group minutes not containing an important point of information: That the Task Force *will not utilize* the USPS to provide information to all Fairfax County households regarding changing the highway names. Instead, other selective means will be used for sampling purposes, but nothing will be targeted at the voters/taxpayers. The minutes should reflect that the Task Force will not use the USPS to contact voters on this important matter.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#)

Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:14 AM

To: 'Watson, Malcolm'

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for forwarding the minutes of the Sub-Group meeting last week. I noticed there is one point missing from those minutes: I believe I asked whether the public survey would be mailed to all households in Fairfax County (via USPS) in order to give all voters and taxpayers the opportunity to respond to the proposed highway name changes. I noted that the response to this question was negative and that other means of communication were planned such as Supervisor's on-line newsletters, mailouts of postcards to the business community nearest the highways, County websites, chambers of commerce, social media (someone said millennials get their information there), "hashtags," and probably other means which I have forgotten. In any event, those means of outreach are limited and do not include the vast majority of Fairfax citizens.

I firmly believe that Fairfax voters and taxpayers should decide this name issue on a ballot referendum. That's the only "fair" way to decide whether or not to change the names of two primary highways that have existed here for 100 years— names that reflect the Civil War heritage of Fairfax County and make us unique in the Washington area. I've raised this issue several times before but no one seems interested in the logic of it. I think I understand why. The BOS does not want voters weighing in because they might reject the costly and ideologically driven agenda and cast their votes to keep the existing names. And the BOS wants those names and history erased. So no referendum, and they appoint a task force guided by paid contract facilitators to steer us toward name changes. For the BOS, that's much easier to accomplish than convincing hundreds of thousands of taxpayers and voters to agree with their anti-heritage and anti-Civil War name hysteria.

I strongly urge the task force to halt the planned path we are on and inform the BOS that in fairness to all the people of Fairfax, they should call a voter referendum to decide this issue. Any other device that's used to effect name changes is merely a way of avoiding the common sense and wisdom of the

voters. No thirty individuals on a “task force” should decide for 1.2 million residents, and no BOS should arbitrarily change those names without voter agreement.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm

Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM

To: Spain, Evelyn

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group Chair Spain and others, In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7, attached are the meeting minutes for your review and comment. Thanks in advance. Please let me know if I have missed something or misrepresented any topics discussed at the meeting.

Malcolm Watson



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

Subject: FW: Comments on Renaming Lee Highway | Confederate Names Task Force

From: S Chandra

Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 5:33 PM

To: DOT Confederate Names Task Force <DOTConfederateNamesTaskForce@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Subject: Comments on Renaming Lee Highway | Confederate Names Task Force

Dear Task Force Members,

With regards to the review of names of Lee Highway (U.S. Route 29) and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (U.S. Route 50), I would like to bring following information to your notice:

a) Although Robert E. Lee was a confederate general, after the civil war he played a crucial role in restoring peace [1]. He was advised and encouraged to not surrender and continue the fight in a gorilla war manner. He was very much capable and resourceful to do it but at that moment he thought like an American and decided not to continue the fight keeping America above all. In the words of Jay Winik, the famous historian and author - "by this one momentous decision, he spared the country from the divisive guerilla warfare that surely would have followed." [2]

It was the decision by political leaders of that era that started the civil war. Robert E. Lee was only following orders. But when his turn came to make a key decision, he decided in favor of America.

b) After the civil war, he advised a confederate widow who was full of animosity towards North to rise above any sectional feeling and raise the kids as Americans. As quoted by Edward Lee Childe in his book *The Life and Campaigns of General Lee (1875)*, p. 331, Lee told the widow "Madam, don't bring up your sons to detest the United States Government. Recollect that we form but one country, now. Abandon all these local animosities, and make your sons Americans." [3]

c) According to Emory Thomas, a renowned History Professor Emeritus at the University of Georgia and noted scholar of the American Civil War Robert E. Lee played an instrumental role in the Mexican-American war (1846-1848) which resulted in the Westward expansion of the United States.[4]

The civil war and the cause behind it is a blot in American history. Yet by focusing on only one aspect of Robert E. Lee (General of the Confederate Army) and ignoring his other important contributions to America during pre and post civil war period, we may be inadvertently showing the same intolerance and hatred which caused the civil war.

Sources:

1. <https://www.nps.gov/arho/learn/historyculture/lee-s-work-for-reunification.htm>
2. April 1865, Book by Jay Winik
3. *The Life and Campaigns of General Lee (1875)* by Edward Lee Childe, p. 331.
4. Thomas, Emory M. (1997). *Robert E. Lee*. W. W. Norton & Co. ISBN 978-0-393-31631-5.

Watson, Malcolm

From: Evelyn Spain
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:52 AM
To: Kristi Dooley
Cc: edtw Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; JulietteR Shedd
Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

I agree with with everything stated in Kristi's email. I stand by the decisions that have been voted on by the members of CNTF Subcommittee, the deadline set by the BOS and confirm all CNTF subcommittee correspondence has been shared by Malcolm.

Thank you for sharing thoughts.

Chair Spain

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 10, 2021, at 8:58 PM, kristi dooley :

Hi Ed,

What the subgroup agreed to was the one page sheet that Blake and Shirley worked on and the that the subgroup approved (the Task Force purpose and historical context of the highway names) being at the beginning of the survey's online version, as well as on the front page of the paper version of the survey, as a handout at the public feedback meetings, and as information that will be placed on the web site as well. Since the postcard being sent countywide links all county residents to the web site where this information is already included, there was no other conversation about a need for any additional link. Anyone who goes to the link on the postcard will already find that information there. Hopefully that addresses your concerns.

With respect to the timing of the process, we are very clear with the Board's intent for the timeframe in which the work is to be completed, and we are proceeding accordingly, as we've shared with you. Please note that doesn't preclude you from voicing your own concerns to your Board member at any time.

To my knowledge, we have not received any other emails from Task Force members with additional information or requests since our last meeting on September 20 (other than a few emails coordinating aspects of the subgroup's work). I think Malcolm has sent out to the full Task Force your emails that have detailed your concerns about timing and any other content-related issues. Just wanted to put you at ease with respect to that. You aren't missing any other correspondence from other TF members because there hasn't been any.

Hope that's helpful. Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow night!

Best,
Kristi

From: <edtw

Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3:49 PM**To:** 'evelyn spain'

Cc: "'Watson, Malcolm'

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good afternoon Evelyn,

There are a few problems here.

- 1) Did the sub-group quorum realize that the historical basis for the highway names *had no link* on the post card before they voted to accept it? I certainly did not. I have no notes of planners or facilitators calling attention to that fact, or of anyone noting it beforehand. Am I wrong? Perhaps others did and said nothing about it, but I myself did not realize that the post card lacked that information. I only noticed it when I returned home from the Oct. 7 meeting.
- 2) This process is being rushed along with much of the work being done behind the scenes. The prepared material is then brought forth at our meetings with little time for the rest of us to think about what we are looking at, or, if there are other factors that should be considered.
- 3) Yes, I have raised questions about the time-line before, and have noted the lack of interest in extending the time period. Perhaps TF organizers are not permitted to push back against the BOS. Indeed this process is like a freight train going down the track, and no delays are permitted.
- 4) Among the meeting materials for Monday Oct. 11 (sent late Friday, Oct. 8) I find no attachment containing the e-mails and messages exchanged between members, staff, and facilitators since our last full meeting on September 20. That's a three week stretch in which TF members remain uninformed and out of the loop on important points raised between myself and the Chair, organizers, and facilitators. Where are those messages? Will the other TF members see them? And where are their messages? I assume that I am not the only one with points to make, and that others are having input too. I'd appreciate knowing their views as well.

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: evelyn spain

Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:21 AM

To: edtw

Cc:

Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Morning Ed,

Thank you for your feedback. The website will contain the “ Overview” link. This will allow the reader to click on the link and go directly to the overview information. Please note the quorum of subcommittee members voted on accepting the postcard as it currently stands.

We have addressed the timeline concerns numerous times, both in the CNTF meetings and with the BOS. Our commitment to meeting the deadline as stated in the initial scope remains the same.

Best,

Evelyn

Evelyn

Commissioner Evelyn Spain

Sully Planning Commissioner

On Oct 8, 2021, at 8:53 PM, [edtw](#) wrote: _____

Yes, good evening Evelyn,

It took me a while to realize that the card did not include a link to background on the highway names. When the post card was first presented on Sept. 28, the task force did not intend it to be mailed to all residences. I then raised the issue about excluding voters and taxpayers. Now that it will be mailed to all residences (as per last night), the reasons for including the “Highway Overviews” are critical for informed decision making. Surely there is space on the card for another line with a link. That time is short is understood. However, my suggestion that the task force inform the BOS that their deadline should be extended was deemed not possible. Why, I don’t know. Sometimes plans have to be changed.

I do know that the BOS wants this business wrapped up asap so they can take their vote. But the pace at which the process is moving is almost dizzying. I have a blitz of paper here and TF staff and facilitators are working overtime to produce more. Frankly, I think it would be prudent to slow down the train and give us time to think things through—like what should go on the postcards—not hasten the train onward with safety checks not made. We need time to think and consider, and not be rushed to the finish line.

Thank you for your patience on this important matter,
Ed Wenzel

PS The “Overview” link should not only be on the post cards, but on the web site as well.

From: Spain, Evelyn

Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 7:36 PM

To: [edtw](#)

Cc:

Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

Evening Ed,

Thank you so much for the compliment.

I don't recall that the postcard was ever going to include a link to the "Highway Overviews". Understanding how strongly you feel that this information needs to be shared with the public, you can ask if its' possible to put it on the website provided the Task Force agrees. Please remember, we are up against a tight deadline and it was strongly stated that changes unless it's a grave error, can not be made at this late stage.

By all means please feel free to share your concerns during the meeting on Monday. Please also let the group know you are happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. Dr Shedd and I rode by there Thursday night on the way home from our meeting.

Thank you for offering.

Best,

Chair Spain

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and staff on the all the behind the scenes work. I just noted though, that the post card does not include a link to the “Highway Overviews” which give the historical basis for the two names. That is vital information. The on-line survey is good, but the “overview info” should also have a link on the card. Everyone who takes this survey should have access to the historical reasons for the names. Otherwise the false narratives that people have absorbed from the media and the BOS will be all they know.

Also, on the “Overview” sheet, under “Highway Overviews,” in the next line, after each highway’s name, I suggest adding the words “How this highway got its name.” That will make it clear what the “Overview” is about.

Thank you,
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PS My concerns remain about the BOS motivation on these names. We all know what they did last year (which in my view was absolutely disgraceful), and what they want recommended on these names. I hope and pray that the uniqueness of Fairfax County’s Civil War heritage is not further erased by guilt and politics-driven wokeness. Every locality has a “sense of place” and the Civil War put a massive stamp on Fairfax County. It is our history and it should not be subjected to cultural cleansing. As I said last night, I would happy to lead a tour of the Ox Hill Battlefield Park for anyone who might be interested.

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Subject: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

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I believe we addressed this last evening during our sub committee meeting. Please let me know if you have any additional concerns around the USPS item.

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Mr. Watson,

I received no reply yesterday to my query about the Sub-Group minutes not containing an important point of information: That the Task Force *will not utilize* the USPS to provide information to all Fairfax County households regarding changing the highway names. Instead, other selective means will be used for sampling purposes, but nothing will be targeted at the voters/taxpayers. The minutes should reflect that the Task Force will not use the USPS to contact voters on this important matter.

Thank you,

Ed Wenzel

From: [edtw](#) _____

Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:14 AM

To: 'Watson, Malcolm

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public

Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for forwarding the minutes of the Sub-Group meeting last week. I noticed there is one point missing from those minutes: I believe I asked whether the public survey would be mailed to all households in Fairfax County (via USPS) in order to give all voters and taxpayers the opportunity to respond to the proposed highway name changes. I noted that the response to this question was negative and that other means of communication were planned such as Supervisor's on-line newsletters, mailouts of postcards to the business community nearest the highways, County websites, chambers of commerce, social media (someone said millennials get their information there), "hashtags," and probably other means which I have forgotten. In any event, those means of outreach are limited and do not include the vast majority of Fairfax citizens.

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Thank you,
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Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM

To: Spain, Evelyn

Subject: Confederate Names Task Force - Public

Engagement Sub-Group Chair Spain and others, In preparation for our meeting on Thursday, October 7, attached are the meeting minutes for your review and comment. Thanks in advance. Please let me know if I have missed something or misrepresented any topics discussed at the meeting.

Malcolm Watson



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

From: evelyn spain
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 5:21
To: Watson, Malcolm; Nissinen, Anna; Dominguez, Noelle C.; Kristi Dooley; Juliette R Shedd
Cc: Re: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group
Subject:

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To: 'Watson, Malcolm'

Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force - Public Engagement Sub-Group

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Malcolm Watson

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 10:36 AM
To: Watson, Malcolm
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for sending the FOIA and meeting links. I have tried to view them but cannot get audio on the Ch 16 video at the 31 minute mark. The video begins with audio, but when I move to 31 minutes, all I get is a circle rotating in the center of the screen with no audio or video motion. Also, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act video does the same thing and it's a 3 hour video. No advancing forward in the video if you knew where to go, which I don't. I don't have the time to watch either video from the beginning. Doesn't anyone know the answer to my question without viewing the video? Isn't there a printed document with table of contents and index that can be forwarded?

Thanks,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 4:14 PM
To: edtw
Cc:
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Wenzel,

Thank you for following up. Regarding your questions about communication guidelines, I've provided the link to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act training video. I've also provided the link to the Confederate Names Task Force website, where you can view the meeting recorded on August 16. At that meeting, Louis Nuzzo, Assistant County Attorney with the Office of the County Attorney for Fairfax County provided the Task Force with an overview of Virginia Freedom of Information Act regulations beginning at the 31 minute mark.

- Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA) training video: https://www.ebmcdn.net/fairfax/fairfax-cable-viewer-cc-r-embed.php?viewnode=2020_VFOIA_cc
- [Confederate Names Task Force | Transportation \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

Thanks again, and please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have additional questions.

Malcolm

From: [edtw](#)
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Watson, Malcolm
Subject: RE: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Mr. Watson,

I have a question. We are not supposed to talk/email with more than one TF member at a time to avoid creating a "meeting." But we can e-mail one member and then separately forward that e-mail to another member; or perhaps send to four or five other members if done one by one. That kind of defeats the purpose of the rule, no? Also, while I can't discuss TF business with more than one member at a time, I can discuss my thoughts on the subject, or send comments, to non-Task Force people or friends, correct? Can you please send me a link to the Virginia guidelines/ requirements that govern here?

Thank you,
Ed Wenzel

From: Watson, Malcolm
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 11:56 AM
To:
Subject: Confederate Names Task Force: Public Engagement Sub-Group

Good morning,

Thank you for volunteering for the Public Engagement Sub-Group of the Confederate Names Task Force. If possible, the group should meet twice before the next Task Force meeting, which is scheduled for October 11. Can you please let me know if you're available to meet in person on either Tuesday or Thursday evenings during the weeks of September 27 and October 4?

- Week of September 27: Tuesday 9/28 or Thursday 9/30
- Week of October 4: Tuesday 10/5 or Thursday 10/7

Can you please respond with your availability by tomorrow (Thursday) at 12 PM? We will pass along the meeting details thereafter.

Thank you again, and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Malcolm Watson

Transportation Planner



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Watson, Malcolm

From: edtw
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:58 PM
To: Watson, Malcolm
Subject: Confederate Names TF. 9/20 meeting

Mr. Watson,

I'm not sure what happened last night with the muted phone connection. My phone was on talk but I was not being heard. I tried to speak during the 4th segment but had to hang up and call you to look into the problem. I then dialed back and got through and made my remarks. I suppose a switch was off somewhere?

I don't believe this TF process is going to work. From the "road map" or schedule, it looks like the path has already been mapped out to lead to a name change. That's what Jeff McKay wants and he is on public record saying so, as is our TF Chair. One TF member said he was under the impression that the only reason for the TF was to change the names, and his impression is valid given supervisors' statements and media reports.

From my correspondence and experience with four supervisors—name changes are what they want. Of course, the BOS can request that the Commonwealth Transportation Board change the names without any recommendation from anyone. My take is that the BOS wants the task force for political cover to help them deflect criticism. That is my view and I believe it is correct.

As for the "Community Engagement Plans" and working with district supervisors to plan "Community briefings," whatever material is assembled for one district must be the same for all districts. And the information must be correct, not false narratives. Last night we heard again that Gen. Lee was a "traitor" who fought to "overthrow the U.S. Government." The facilitator said nothing because she probably didn't know. That narrative about Lee is completely false but it is deeply ingrained in a lot of people who absolutely believe it because they don't understand what really happened. Misinformation cannot be presented as fact to community groups.

Historical Ignorance of Confederate Generals, 7/22/20 <https://patriotpost.us/opinion/72310-historical-ignorance-and-confederate-generals-2020-07-22>

Abraham Lincoln, 2/20/13 <https://patriotpost.us/opinion/16820-abraham-lincoln-2013-02-20>

Regarding name changes or not, it was said that we should do "what the community wants" and defer to the "community's wishes." Note that "the community" does not mean "the voters." Whatever outreach we do is going to exclude hundreds of thousands of Fairfax County voters. A voter referendum is the only way to know public sentiment on this historical name issue. Someone said a referendum was "inappropriate." But why? If the BOS wants to change the names of two primary highways that have been named for a hundred years, why shouldn't voters have a say? The question should be on the ballot. Perhaps the voters are not trusted? It's a fundamental issue of fairness. The TF should recommend a ballot referendum to the BOS. That would take the onus off the TF and the people who really matter would decide. We are only 30 people being asked to decide for 1.2 million Fairfax residents. That's not fair by anyone's standard.

Much was said about being "Welcoming" and "Inclusive," inferring that we can't be if the highway names don't change. That's nonsense. Immigrants are pouring into the County every day and they know zero about the American Civil War. Lee, Jackson, Stuart and Mosby mean nothing to them. They are historical American