



## **Memorials Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, January 16, 2020  
Conference Room, City Hall, 715 Princess Anne Street  
Fredericksburg, VA

**Commission Members Present:** Nancy Moore, Michael Spencer, Betty Massey, Tina Morris, Pauline Felder, John Lyles, Paula Raudenbush

**Commission Members Absent:** Jervis Hairston

**Others Present:** John Hennessey, National Park Service and facilitator of the newly formed committee to interpret the Slave Block

Chair Nancy Moore called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Pauline Felder moved to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2019, meeting. Betty Massey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business**

#### **Status of Slave Block Removal**

The removal of the slave block is on hold until the suit brought against the City by owners of businesses on the corner of William and Charles Streets is resolved. Complete information regarding the slave block, can be found on the city website: [fredericksburgva.gov](http://fredericksburgva.gov), search for slave auction block.

#### **Update on the interpretation of the Auction Block site.**

John Hennessey reported that the roundtable discussions among members of the interpretation committee are helping to establish the way the majority wants to see this site interpreted. He said that research shows there were at least 20 documented slave sales at the corner of Charles and William Streets (though the involvement of the block is not mentioned).

The committee is also looking at the larger story of African Americans in Fredericksburg and themes are being articulated in a document that is being created. Three or four alternatives for the auction block corner will be presented to this commission for approval. The next meeting of this group is Thursday, January 30, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at The Central Rappahannock Regional Library.

#### **Status of Caretaker's Cottage**

Nancy reported that the City met with an anonymous donor who would lease the cottage from the city, underwrite \$500,000 worth of improvements, and rent to a resident or nonprofit.

#### **Update on History Panels**

Nancy reported that the Boy Scout who wanted to install interpretative signs in front of the Mary Washington Monument for his Eagle Scout project will work on signs at Hurkamp Park instead. The Garden Club of Virginia is responsible for the monument and the area around it and they do not want more signs there.

**New Business**

**Vacancy on the Commission with resignation of Susan Spears**

Nancy asked for suggestions.

**Meeting schedule for 2020:**

February 20

April 16

June 18

September 17

November 19

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Raudenbush, recording secretary