



Memorials Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 20, 2021
Alum Spring Park
Fredericksburg, VA

The Memorials Advisory Commission met Thursday, May 20, 2021, at the Alum Spring Covered Shelter.

Commission Members Present: Nancy Moore, Michael Spencer, Pauline Felder, Jervis Hairston, Betty Massey, Blanton Massey, and Tina Morris. John Lyles was absent.

Chair Nancy Moore called the meeting to order at 4:08.

Approval of Minutes: Jervis Hairston moved to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2021, meeting. Michael Spencer seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Renaming City Streets: Historic Resources Planner Kate Schwartz said that City Council will first decide on renaming Jefferson Davis Highway before considering other changes. Commission members agreed that a top priority would be renaming Forrest Avenue, which honors Nathan Bedford Forrest, a Confederate general and founder of the Ku Klux Klan. That change could be as simple as dropping an “r” from the name.

Interpretive Panels: Kate said she and other city staff were working on plans for maintaining, revising, and creating panels. She suggested that the Commission play a role in the process by reviewing new panels.

Slave Block Corner Interpretation: Nancy said that the City Manager is proposing that the Fredericksburg Area Museum take the lead in this process.

Caretaker’s Cottage: Michael said that a proposal for maintaining the Mary Washington Monument property would be the subject of a June 8 City Council work session. An anonymous donor has agreed to give \$1 million to the Washington Heritage Museums for the project. Michael, who chairs the Museums board, said that the funds would not be used for the Cottage, which does not fit the group’s 18th Century mission. The city would still be responsible for maintaining the Cottage and finding a suitable tenant.

Kate said Public Works is doing yard work around the Cottage, and that repairs to the building would cost an estimated \$30,000.

New Business

Blanton Massey was introduced as a new Commission member.

Wall of Honor: On a motion by Jervis Hairston, seconded by Betty Massey, the Commission voted unanimously to nominate Ruth Fitzgerald and Freeman Funk for inclusion on the Wall of Honor. Nominations will be sent to City Council, and a ceremony will be held in October.

Meeting Schedule for 2021:

—August 19

—November 18

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Moore, Chair