



Memorials Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 18, 2021
City Council Chambers
Fredericksburg, VA

The Memorials Advisory Commission met Thursday, November 18, 2021, in the Fredericksburg City Council Chambers.

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

Guests: Steve Flanagan, president of Kiwanis of Fredericksburg, and M.C. Morris, Assistant Director of Tourism for the City of Fredericksburg.

Commission Members Absent: John Lyles

Call to Order: Chair Nancy Moore called the meeting to order at 4:06.

Approval of Minutes: Michael Spencer moved to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2021, meeting. Blanton Massey seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Slave Block Corner Interpretation/hiring of diversity staffer by Fredericksburg Area Museum:

- Jervis Hairston stated that he is on the committee that is interviewing candidates for the City's diversity staffer; they have interviewed three candidates thus far.
- Nancy added that John Hennessy is also one of the interviewers.

Caretaker's Cottage:

- Michael Spencer stated that the proposal the city had been considering is gone, so the project is starting from scratch.
- Washington Heritage Museums (WHM) is establishing a task force of approximately 8 people to generate ideas over the next 6 months as to how the WHM and the city could partner to use the cottage and grounds, and what funds would be necessary to restore and maintain the structure and property (excluding the playground). Currently, Assistant City Manager David Brown is living in the cottage.
- Nancy Moore has agreed to be a member of the task force as a representative of the commission.

New Business:

Kiwanis Club Memorial Project:

- Steve Flanagan stated that the 100th anniversary of the Kiwanis is in February 2022, and as a way to honor the foundation of the club, the Kiwanis would like to create a

memorial as a permanent reminder of the city's residents who were personally affected by 9/11. He asked what is permitted and what locations would be appropriate.

- The commission discussed how other communities have memorialized 9/11, and informed Steve that the Kiwanis should work with the Department of Parks and Recreation to identify a space. Commission members agreed that any monument that is erected should have a direct, personal connection to the city and its residents.
- Steve indicated that the Kiwanis would like to have the memorial put in place by 2023. Nancy stated that the commission will look at the design and make recommendations to the City Council, which would make the final decision. Michael added that, depending on the location, the Kiwanis might also need to have the design review by the Architectural Review Board.

Visitor Center Video and Updated Walking Tours:

- M.C. Morris, the City's new Assistant Director of Tourism, announced that the Fredericksburg Visitor Center has stopped showing the introductory video. A new video has been filmed and is in editing. This video features the many aspects of life in Fredericksburg, including history, restaurants and shopping, outdoor recreation, and family fun. She stated that the new video also offers more diversity among the featured speakers, including African American residents and business owners. They anticipate the video will be 95% completed by December.
- M.C. also shared that all Visitor Center staff will take an African American walking tour with Jervis Hairston. Other future projects include the creation of a narrative of the Civil Rights Trail, and a panel that will detail the 1950s boycott of the Dorothy Hart Community Center by the African American high school graduating class, whose graduation ceremony was set to occur at the community center; once the students arrived, they were denied entrance in the front door, and told they had to enter through the back door. The panel is to be installed by the end of December, and will be the fifth new marker placed in 2021.
- M.C. stated that April 18, 2022, will be the 106th anniversary of John Washington's crossing of the Rappahannock River. As a way to commemorate the event, M.C. suggests a walking tour of sorts, with stops from the city dock to Old Mill Park.
- M.C. is also working to cultivate interest in changing the Fredericksburg Visitor Center location to a space that will allow the center to provide more comprehensive information about Fredericksburg.

History Panels for Chatham Bridge and Old Stone Warehouse:

- Nancy Moore stated that there should be an informational panel at the Chatham Bridge and the Old Stone Warehouse. Currently, the future of the Old Stone Warehouse is unclear.

Need for New Members:

- Nancy informed the commission that members do not have to leave the commission until they are replaced, and agreed to continue as the Chair of the Memorials Advisory Commission. She expressed a need for new members. Technically, the commission currently has 5 vacancies.

Meeting Schedule for 2022:

All meetings will be held at 4:00 pm.

- February 17
- May 19
- August 18
- November 17

Pauline Felder moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 pm. Betty Massey seconded the motion, and by unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pauline Felder". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Pauline Felder