

Commemorative Commission to Honor the Contributions of Virginia's Women
Subcommittee Meeting
9:30 AM, March 14, 2014 – 3rd Floor East Conference Room
General Assembly Building, Richmond, Virginia

Minutes

Members in attendance:

Senator Mary Margaret Whipple
Secretary Nancy Rodrigues
Susan Schaar

Dr. Sandra Treadway
Kathleen Kilpatrick

The meeting was called to order by Vice- Chair Senator Mary Margaret Whipple. Those in attendance introduced themselves. Senator Whipple clarified that this meeting was for working purposes only, and no official action would be taken. Susan Schaar pointed out that Lisa Hicks-Thomas, former Secretary of Administration and former acting Chair of the Commission, was appointed to the Commission and would soon be returning to the membership. Other guests to the meeting that day included Richard A. Arenstein, Chairman of the Virginia Capitol Foundation Board, John Crank from the 1717 Design Group, Julie Whitlock from the Department of General Services, and Steve Owens from the Office of the Attorney General.

Mr. Crank brought the schematic design booklet that he and his team compiled as part of Phase I of the contract. He presented the book to the group and allowed comment and edits from the members. Senator Whipple suggested that the main cover photo of the proposed monument should feature more women and children, as currently there are more men than anyone else in the picture. There was discussion on the “Acknowledgements” page that Lisa Hicks-Thomas should be titled as “Acting Chair” and the former Governor Robert F. McDonnell should be listed as chair (to include dates coinciding with their terms). There was a question of whether there should be a listing of current and past membership. The “Table of Contents” page provoked the question of whether or not an “in progress” disclaimer should be added for fundraising purposes.

On page 50 of the booklet, it was noted that the phrase “possibly Asian or Hispanic” needed to be revised as it refers to the proposed “Preteen girl” (Figure 13) bronze figure. The desired model should be one that is inclusive to all ethnicities. Page 3 displays the legislation from where the Commission and subsequent monument was established. It was discussed whether or not the amendment that passed the 2014 General Assembly Session to include Former Secretary Hicks-Thomas be added to indicate her (re)appointment. Page 7 should include the phrase “Original Monument as Submitted,” because the design shows the original boxwoods which were removed as a request of the Commission. On the next page (pg. 8), there should be concept drawings instead of the photo seen on page 7. These pictures need to send the message that this was the original concept, not the design as agreed upon by the Commission.

Page 22 is an overview of the ADA standards and accessibility issues the design team is facing, and Julie Whitlock and John Crank discussed how DGS and the team are working together to address these matters. Some parts of Capitol Square (mainly sidewalks) are not

currently up to the ADA standard, but it was explained that historical context of the Square can lend an exception to the accessibility requirements, per DGS and the Director of DGS, Richard Sliwoski (who has the authority to grant these exemptions). The monument itself must meet these requirements, however.

John Crank briefly went over the bronze figures, and asked that the Commission decide that for those women who have known visual representations throughout their lifetimes which age they should be depicted on the monument. He also asked that the Commission decide what props (if any) the women should be holding (i.e. Adèle Goodman Clark and a paint brush, etc.), and from there any text concerning said figure should explain those accessories.

Phase II (Implementation) of the process was discussed, as the booklet explains in detail each sub-phase. Page 51 in particular details each sub-phase. On page 53 and 68, the Department of Historic Resources and the Capitol Square Preservation Council should be added to the list of agencies that should see the final presentation. John Crank detailed the process of sculpting and casting the bronzes and constructing the plaza. On page 66, the client deliverables are detailed, and Mr. Crank pointed the members to said deliverables and the schedule of implementation. From there, a fundraising discussion formed based on the amount of money needed for each sub-phase of implementation. It was decided that the conversation should continue into the next Executive Committee meeting that staff would poll members for dates in the coming days.