

Women of Virginia Commemorative Commission
Executive Board Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2015
3rd Floor Conference Room, General Assembly Building, Richmond, VA

Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Senator Mary Margaret Whipple
Lissy Bryan
Secretary Nancy Rodrigues
Dr. Sandra G. Treadway

Susan C. Schaar
Jacqueline C. Hedblom
Lisa M. Hicks-Thomas

Vice Chair Senator Mary Margaret Whipple called the meeting to order. All present were welcomed and introduced. Members of the Full Commission in attendance were: Alice Lynch, Delegate Jimmie Massie, and Mary Abel Smith. Senator Whipple explained that she hoped to have meetings of the Executive Committee and Full Commission on alternating months to keep up the progress of the Commission.

Criteria for the names on the glass wall of the monument were presented in a handout by Dr. Treadway. Senator Whipple read aloud each piece of criteria and then gave members and the audience a chance to discuss each item before a vote was taken. Lissy Bryan commented that she was pleased with the criteria because they reflected the original intent of the selections of the bronze figures. Comments were also made regarding the section that strategically mentions the women on the wall being a “representative and inspiring sample of women of achievement” so as to avoid being completely exclusive of those where there isn’t space to include. Mr. Charles H. Seilheimer, Jr. was a member of the public that gave comment once the motion was made to adopt the criteria. He was asked by Commission member Em Bowles Alsop to come and speak on her behalf to say that they hoped that the women selected would be chosen based on their own merits and not those who they associated with (i.e. who their husbands were). He also mentioned the hope that there wouldn’t be a lot of “hyphenated” categories and that the inclusion of different regions wouldn’t take away from densely populated regions with deserving women of achievement. His final comment was to encourage the body to designate someone or some group to come up with the names on the wall for the future. A unanimous vote was then taken, and the criteria for the names on the wall were adopted.

Senator Whipple then led the discussion on the status of the Steering Committee. Susan Schaar told the Board that she is awaiting response from the lady she contacted about serving on the Committee, and should have an answer soon. Senator Whipple mentioned that Kathy Watkins, Pam Northam and Megan Beyer have agreed to serve on the Committee and she hopes to have the Committee in place by next month. She also mentioned a “Former First Ladies Circle” of the former First Ladies of Virginia who would serve on a more honorary basis – Lynda Robb is the only one who has been approached as of yet but has agreed to help. Senator Whipple asked that Secretary Rodrigues approach the others about participating. Lissy Bryan asked if we had a final list of people who needed to be contacted/have been contacted – Charlotte Gomer from the Virginia Capitol Foundation has this list. Mr. Seilheimer added that including former Presidents of the Garden Club of Virginia would be a good idea. Senator Whipple

responded that there is still plenty of room for any more suggestions of those who might be interested in serving on the Steering Committee, and it shouldn't be limited to just women participants.

Lissy Bryan and Alice Lynch then followed up with a brief discussion on fundraising. Alice Lynch reported that they have completed the "Capitol Campaign Cabinet" – members including: Governor McAuliffe and the First Lady as Honorary Chairs, Mary Margaret Whipple, Lissy Bryan, Delegate Chris Peace, Chief Adams and Patty Lockridge. Buford Scott and Brent Halsey will also serve as honorary members. Alice added that a case statement has been completed and they are close to finishing the first drafts on the educational and landscaping components. They are also close to being able to approach some major area corporations for gifts and will report more on this at the next meeting.

After the fundraising discussion concluded, Senator Whipple opened up the floor to members for comments. With there being none, she opened the floor up for public comment. With no public comment, she adjourned the meeting at 2:43 PM, concluding with directing members to expect a Full Commission meeting in February.