

Women of Virginia Commemorative Commission Meeting

Tuesday, October 27, 2015
Senate Room B, General Assembly Building,
Richmond, VA

Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Senator Whipple, Vice Chair	Lissy S. Bryan	Kitty Claiborne
Senator McDougle	Alice Lynch	Susan Schaar
EJ Scott	Secretary Nancy Rodrigues	Dr. Sandra Treadway
Jacqueline C. Hedblom		

On Tuesday, October 27, 2015 a meeting of the Commemorative Commission to Honor the Contributions of the Women of Virginia was held in Senate Room B of the General Assembly Building in Richmond, Virginia. Vice Chair Senator Mary Margaret Whipple called the meeting to order a few minutes after 2 PM. She welcomed everyone and asked everyone present to introduce themselves. She gave a brief overview of the agenda before going in to the first item: nominations for the glass wall of the monument.

Staff informed Commission Members that over 219 names had been submitted for being honored on the glass wall. Interest in submitting nominations has been increasing due to the recently established Facebook page as well as post cards and materials distributed by the Virginia Capitol Foundation. Because of this spark in interest, the question arose about extending the deadline for submissions – the initial deadline being November 15, 2015. Susan Schaar made a motion to extend this deadline, mentioning a recent “Letter to the Editor” from the Richmond Times-Dispatch she had read that led her to brainstorm about more ways to spread the word about the opportunity for nominations to localities that might not yet have been reached. She suggested putting advertisements in local newspapers. The Commission agreed that an extension would be beneficial and voted to move the deadline to March 31, 2016 – honoring the end of Women’s History Month. Secretary Nancy Rodrigues requested that the database of names be shared with her office so she can send out press releases to the localities that do not yet have representation through the nominations.

Alice Lynch, member of the Commission and Executive Director of the Virginia Capitol Foundation, gave her report on fundraising. She shared with the group that the Commission itself has \$329,000 in the bank as several gifts have come through since the last meeting. She is confident that more gifts will be made in the next few months. She then directed the discussion towards various events that she is trying to organize to raise awareness about the project – utilizing Commission Member Lissy Bryan’s help with an event in Richmond at the Capitol. This event would not be a fundraising event, but rather an educational one to acquaint those interested with the site and project – Susan Schaar gave some dates to avoid in the near future due to some legislative conflicts, so a date of December 10th was tentatively agreed upon. Alice also mentioned an event at Virginia Randolph School’s Centennial celebration that was a huge success as she was able to learn from attendees about Virginia Randolph and share with them the goals of the Commission and the monument.

After Alice completed her report to the Commission, Senator Whipple gave members a status update on the contract. She mentioned that at the Executive Committee meeting earlier in October, members approved moving into the next phase of the contract with money on hand to do so. She explained that the next phase of the contract includes site design and having an engineering firm come out to take measurements and come up with a topographic map of the area. The next phase would also enable the artist to implement costuming and actual placement of the bronze figures as part of a photo shoot to help stage the design for building the actual monument. The next part of the contract has not yet been placed in front of the Commission so there was nothing tangible to approve as of yet.

Senator Whipple then opened up the meeting to member reports. Secretary Rodrigues asked that we recognize and give our thanks to Finn Fisk, an intern in her office, for all of her help in setting up (and continuing to update) the Commission's Facebook page as well as the database where nominations are stored. Finn has also enlisted her classmates at Maggie Walker Governor's School to help with fundraising for the monument. Secretary Rodrigues asked that we send a letter of thanks to her – Senator Whipple agreed, asking her to draft a letter for the Commission to send. Secretary Rodrigues also asked that Dr. Sandra Treadway and Senator Whipple be recognized for their job well done taking part in an interview segment on WCVE with David Bailey that explained and advocated for the Women's Monument project. EJ Scott told the Commission about a "Stand for Women Now" event in Northern Virginia that she attended and had great success with, and she thanked Alice Lynch for the materials the Virginia Capitol Foundation provided her with to hand out. Keeping with the locale of Northern Virginia, Senator Whipple alerted members to a couple of upcoming events she and Krysta Jones, Commission Member have coming up in that area: an interview segment on Krysta's community access television show and going to speak to Arlington Central Library about the monument as part of the library's "Encore Learning" series. Susan Schaar added that she has been approached by a group to speak as well and hoped to share more about that at the next meeting.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 2:49 PM.