

**Women of Virginia  
Commemorative Commission**  
December 8, 2014  
Senate Room 1, Virginia State Capitol  
Richmond, Virginia

**Minutes**

Members in Attendance:

Lisa M. Hicks-Thomas  
Senator Mary Margaret Whipple  
Senator Ryan T. McDougle  
Krysta N. Jones  
Susan C. Schaar  
Kathleen S. Kilpatrick  
Lissy S. Bryan

Alice Lynch  
G. Paul Nardo  
EJ Scott  
Em Bowles Locker Alsop  
Secretary Nancy Rodrigues  
Dr. Sandra G. Treadway

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair, Senator Mary Margaret Whipple. Two new members to the Commission were introduced: Krysta N. Jones of Arlington and EJ Scott of Manassas. Secretary of Administration Nancy Rodrigues then announced the Governor and First Lady as the Honorary Campaign Chairs.

Alice Lynch, Executive Director of the Virginia Capitol Foundation, then gave an update/overview of the Capitol Square Campaign. She handed out materials that explained each bronze statue selection with their respective biographies as well as the overall design of the monument. Jeffrey Wilt from the Monument Group followed up the names of those who are on the fundraising team for the campaign: Patty Lockridge, Delegate Chris Peace, Senator Mary Margaret Whipple, Chief Adams, and Brent Halsey, and Buford Scott. Alice then went on to explain that there is a Steering Committee as a subset of the campaign that is to raise funds exclusively for the women's monument, headed up by Lissy Bryan. She handed out the job description for the Steering Committee.

Lissy Bryan added that they are trying to enlist some of the former First Ladies of Virginia to be Honorary Committee Members, while trying to pull other members from various regions of the Commonwealth. Staff was asked to email members the job description document in addition to asking members to send any Steering Committee candidates to Lissy Bryan. Senator Whipple reminded members to consider recommendations of those outside Richmond or Northern Virginia since there is already such a great representation of those two areas on the Commission. Lissy added that it might be worthwhile to reach out to various professional organizations for participation.

Next, Dr. Sandra Treadway, Librarian of Virginia and member of the Commission, headed up the discussion pertaining to name recommendations to be featured on the glass wall. She has been working with several staff historians at the Library but needed the Commission to decide on a few factors. She knew that John Crank had told her there would be four panels that could fit 80-100 names (60 was recommended) and each letter would be about 1 inch tall, according to Susan Schaar. Dr. Treadway and

her team needed to know how many on each panel the Commission wanted, how should they be divided, should they be listed chronologically or alphabetically? And how recently deceased should the women be? Senator Whipple opened the floor for discussion. Secretary Rodrigues expressed the benefits of randomizing names, as had been done on the Public Safety Memorial, while leaving space for additional names for the future. She also added that she knew VDOT had special moratoriums on names streets, bridges, etc. after those deceased and said the Commission should consider adopting the same policy. Senator McDougle said that dates should at least be added to names, and that space should be left for future women to be added. Senator Whipple agreed and the Commission decided that listed names should be deceased for at least 10 years prior to consideration to be added to the wall, and that space would be left for those future individuals. Lissy Bryan suggested listing names by century for the educational benefit, and possibly combining earlier centuries since there aren't as many names. Lisa M. Hicks-Thomas cautioned members against listing by profession, as lots of women who will be listed led multi-faceted lives and could not easily be categorized that way.

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick suggested coming up with a set of criteria that needs to be followed in coming up with the names of the individuals, G. Paul Nardo agreeing. A criteria subcommittee of Dr. Treadway, Kathleen S. Kilpatrick, and Susan C. Schaar was established in response to this. Senator Whipple encouraged fewer names than more, so that the print on the wall would not have to be exceedingly small and suggested a ballpark list of about 100 names, Dr. Treadway adding that they already have about 120 names on the radar. Alice Lynch has many submissions that she will share with staff to get to the subcommittee. Paul Nardo suggested establishing the criteria before soliciting names to the public. Susan Schaar added that names should be looked at regionally so each area of the Commonwealth is heartily represented. Senator Whipple decided that the Executive Committee would meet to finalize criteria and then post to the Women's Monument website to solicit responses from the public, but ask that the submissions be supported with how they fit the criteria. EJ Scott mentioned that this would be a great way to publicize the project as well as reach out to potential donors.

Comments from Members of the Commission then followed, starting with reminding everyone that donors will not be recognized on the monument for their gifts. Alice Lynch added that the Joint Rules Committee approved listing names of donors giving \$100,000 or more on Capitol Square at a location to be finalized. Senator Whipple suggested having a book somewhere on Capitol Square that lists every donation, to encourage even the smallest gifts be recognized. Senator McDougle suggested a video screen that would scroll through the names of each donor (like a "digital picture frame"). Secretary Rodrigues added that an "app" would be useful to find the names of donors as well as where to find the names on the wall, etc. Em Bowles Also ended the discussion with how thrilled she is that her original idea has come this far.

There was no public comment. The meeting adjourned with Senator Whipple asking staff to poll Executive Committee members for a meeting in January.