

Commemorative Commission to Honor the Contributions of Virginia's Women
Executive Committee Meeting
October 24, 2017 – 1:30 PM – Senate Room 1
Virginia State Capitol, Richmond, Virginia

Meeting Notes

Members in attendance:

Secretary Nancy Rodrigues, Senator Whipple, Susan C. Schaar, Jacqueline Cook Hedblom and Dr. Sandra Treadway

On October 24, 2017 at 1:30 PM the Executive Committee of the Commemorative Commission to Honor the Contributions of the Women of Virginia met. Senator Whipple called the meeting to order. In addition to Senator Whipple, Secretary Rodrigues, Susan C. Schaar, Jacqueline Cook Hedblom and Dr. Sandra Treadway were in attendance. The meeting began with a call from Charles Bennett, Director of Project Management for CBRE | Richmond and Project Manager for the Commission, regarding the proposal to change the location of the Monument. Last week BCOM suggested that the plaza could be moved up the hill (20-30ft) from its current planned location to avoid unplanned expenses regarding the ADA compliant stairs. Currently the walkway would have to be raised 4ft due to the steepness of the hill. The Committee then reviewed diagrams of the possible new location brought in by Joe Damico, Deputy Director of the Department of General Services. The changes presented were from the building code official and the facility management team. A small magnolia tree will have to be moved and a large holly tree will require 4-6ft of limbs to be taken off to make room for the plaza. After the Committee ventured outside to view the possible new site, it was decided that the Monument should be moved; Charles Bennett and his architects will come up with more options to bring back to the Committee for approval.

The Committee moved on to discuss the plans for the upcoming groundbreaking ceremony on December 4th. The event marks the beginning of construction on phase 1 of the Women's Monument, Voices from the Garden Memorial Plaza. The program will consist of three speakers: Governor McAuliffe; Susan Allen, former First Lady of Virginia, to represent the Capitol Foundation; and Senator Whipple to represent the Women's Monument Commission. Ivan Schwartz, the sculptor commissioned to design the twelve bronze statues, will be unable to speak at the groundbreaking ceremony. Ivan suggested his brother and business partner at StudioEIS, Elliot Schwartz, may be able to speak in his place. Secretary Rodriguez will arrange for the design and content of the invitations and programs. The Senate Clerk's Office will be in charge of printing. Jonas Courey will put all groundbreaking information on the website.

The Founders Breakfast fundraising event at the Library of Virginia was the last item on the agenda. The breakfast will honor Em Bowles Locker Alsop and will take place before the groundbreaking ceremony on December 4th. Senator Whipple will ask Linda Johnson Robb, former First Lady of Virginia, to speak at the breakfast. All former First ladies of Virginia will be invited. An email will be sent this week to members of the Commission outlining sponsorship opportunities available for the fundraising breakfast (see file). Members are asked to help secure either a presenting sponsor or table sponsor. Table sponsors can be groups of individuals joining together to fill a table and corporate, association, or individual gifts can be used to fulfill either sponsor level. The 2019 Commemorative Commission has agreed to send out information for the event through their social media platforms and an official press release from DGS will be sent out as well. Joe Damico and his colleagues in DGS will work on parking options for the event. The Commission is waiting on a final quote from Merriweather's for the hot breakfast. Final comments made at the meeting:

-A member of the public, Terry Warthen, made a point to be included in the meeting notes that she wanted to formally thank the Committee for honoring Em Bowles Locker Alsop.

-Ivan Schwartz would like the model of the Monument to be sent to Brooklyn before the photo shoot.

-Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans has been added back to the list for the Glass Wall of Honor.

Senator Whipple moved the Executive Committee adjourn. Ms. Schaar seconded the motion.

The Committee adjourned 5-0.