

Commemorative Commission to Honor the Contributions of Virginia's Women
Executive Committee Meeting
May 23, 2019 – 10:00 AM – Senate Room 2
Virginia State Capitol, Richmond, Virginia

Meeting Notes

Members in attendance:

Senator Whipple, Susan Clarke Schaar, Jacqueline Cook Hedblom, Lisa Hicks-Thomas and Dr. Sandra Treadway

On May 23 at 10:00 AM, the Executive Committee of the Commemorative Commission to Honor the Contributions of the Women of Virginia convened in Senate Room 2 located in the Capitol of Virginia. Senator Whipple called the meeting to order. In addition to Senator Whipple, Lisa Hicks-Thomas, Susan C. Schaar, Jacqueline Cook Hedblom and Dr. Sandra Treadway were all in attendance.

Sara Hunt began with a presentation updating the Committee on public relations successes. The Women's Monument has been featured in over 37 printed stories, 10 television stories, 7 radio stories and 8 online stories since May 2018. The areas where these stories appear cover nearly every region of Virginia and up the east coast. Lisa Hicks-Thomas asked if we have documents on the whole process from beginning to end and requested that everything be put together so the public can see how much went into this project.

Next, Abby Nurnberger gave a report on social media successes from September 2018-May 2019. With over 200,000 impressions and 97,835 likes on Facebook, the Women's Monument has reached people in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Washington DC, New York, Raleigh, Atlanta, Charlotte, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Miami, Baltimore, and more. Senator Whipple asked how this compares to other projects. Abby Nurnberger responded that it's hard to

directly compare with another project but results alone are outstanding. Abby Nurnberger continued with a report on the “Day of Giving” which will be held on June 4th. The Committee Members approved her thermometer graphic that displays the overall fundraising needs for the Monuments. Senator Whipple suggested that the thermometer be adjusted so that it accurately shows how much money the Commission needs to finish the Monuments.

Then, Colleen Messick gave a fundraising update. All pledges have officially been received. Colleen believes that the fundraising portion of the project will wrap up quickly and the goal will be met. Colleen asked if there are any additional funds given to the Commission that it could be used for the educational portion as well as maintenance of the monument. Senator Whipple comments that she feels this is a separate component from the Women’s Commission.

Holly Eve from DGS gave a full report on the status of the commissioned statues. Studio EIS has made a statement that they are still on schedule with no issues. The sun dial water marks have been corrected and cleared up. A portion of the railing has lightened and staff is working to fix that.

Senator Whipple suggested to the Committee to order one pair of statues. The Committee needs to confirm with Ivan that this can happen. Susan Schaar asked if this requires a change in contract which it does. A form would have to be completed. Senator Whipple comments that the alternative is to continue on with original plan of statues. Susan suggests setting a time and date and choosing the statue that is farthest along. Jaqueline Hedblom agrees with Susan. Holly agrees to get estimated times for statues. Susan then makes a motion for Martha Washington and Clementina to be the pair chosen and Lisa Thomas-Hicks seconds that motion. The Committee agrees 5-0.

The Committee moves on to discuss the timeline for names on the monument. Susan Schaar comments that it's important to keep the interest going for the public. She continues by suggesting that the Committee make a selection of names in 2020, and then every 5 years after that. The next consideration will be by the end of 2020 and possibly announcing this at the October dedication. This can also be put on the website.

Susan moves the topic to dedication preparation. Susan wants a female music group to perform at the dedication. Barbara Batson comments that the Richmond Symphony might be available to perform.

Dr. Treadway then tells the Committee that the Virginia Museum of History and Culture has requested a resin copy of one of their statues. The Committee would select the woman. Senator Whipple comments that it would be necessary to ask Studio EIS as well if the Committee agreed to it. Lisa Hicks-Thomas notes that if the museum receives a resin copy then it would encourage guests of the museum to visit the monument on Capitol Square. Susan and Senator Whipple agree that it would show favoritism to the museum if they denied letting other museums or towns have copies as well. Senator Whipple goes on to say that the Committee should continue to consider it and she has no initial objection. Adele would be the possible first choice if the Committee went forward with the decision. There was no public comment.

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