

Commemorative Commission to Honor the Contributions of Virginia's Women
Executive Committee Meeting
1 PM, March 25, 2014 – 3rd Floor East Conference Room
General Assembly Building, Richmond, Virginia

Minutes

Members in attendance:

Senator Mary Margaret Whipple
Secretary Nancy Rodrigues
Susan C. Schaar

Em Bowles Locker Alsop
Jacqueline C. Hedblom

The meeting was called to order by Vice- Chair Senator Mary Margaret Whipple. Alice Lynch, Dr. Sandra Treadway, and Kathleen Kilpatrick, members of the Commission, joined the Committee to offer guidance and consultation. Also present was Julie Whitlock who represents the Department of General Services. The minutes from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting were approved by the Executive Committee, as it was noted that that particular subcommittee probably will not meet again in order to approve the minutes. Senator Whipple then gave the report from the previous subcommittee, taking up a few “household” items first.

Firstly, Julie Whitlock was charged with helping clarify language pertaining to the implementation of the budget since some of the materials in the schematic design report were unclear. A brief discussion of the women featured on the monument ensued, Alice Lynch heading the discussion by clarifying Clementina Rind's achievement of winning a business contract with the House of Burgesses over several men in her career field. Em Bowles Alsop then brought up her dissatisfaction with a couple of the women selected and hoped the names could be reconsidered, while Senator Whipple explained that the names would not be reconsidered since the Commission had voted on all of the women and they had been selected by an overwhelming majority.

Once this conversation subsided, the report that reviewed the edits to the schematic design book John Crank from the 1717 Design Group presented from the last meeting was given. Staff was asked to compile the lists of edits and minutes from the last meeting to send to John Crank. Susan Schaar wanted to highlight that Senate Joint Resolution 76 from the 2014 Virginia General Assembly session adds the previous Secretary of Administration as a voting Ex Officio member, effective immediately. As the former Secretary of Administration under Governor McDonnell, Lisa M. Hicks-Thomas will be rejoining the Commission, and this change needs to be reflected in the book.

The next item on the agenda turned to approving the fundraising agreement with the Virginia Capitol Foundation. Alice Lynch presented the agreement for the Executive Committee members to review. She explained that with all the “goings-on” with monuments and fundraising

for projects on Capitol Square, it is best for the Monument Group to approach corporate donors for gifts to the Capitol Square plan as a whole, with private donors being approached for individual monuments based on interest. The Joint Rules Committee has reviewed and accepted this idea. She elaborated, stating that there had been some consideration over dedicating a plaque listing the names of all major donors (\$100k and up) and having it placed somewhere on Capitol Square. Em Bowles Alsop asked if she had received any money for a “kiosk.” Alice said that she was not aware of any plans for a “kiosk” and that any education component would be communicated through a virtual experience.

The fundraising discussion continued, Alice detailing the fundraising plan with the Monument Group, sharing that a 4% fee of total amount raised would need to be paid to the Monument Group for administrative costs and that they would be under a 15 month contract with them. She also explained that a steering committee has been put together for recruiting others from around the state to head up fundraising in their corners of the Commonwealth. This “recruitment process” will begin in May so the Monument Group can begin presenting to corporations in June. As a side note, Senator Whipple mentioned that Delegate Massie wants to have the Monument Group present their fundraising plan at the next Full Commission meeting because he wants to become more involved in helping the fundraising aspect of the project.

On that note, other business of setting the next meeting began, deciding that staff would poll members for the best date to meet. Secretary Rodrigues mentioned the City of Richmond bicycle race that would be taking place in September 2015 and that we need to keep that in mind in future monument plans. Susan Schaar asked what the next step was and if it was topography, Julie Whitlock replying that she would proceed with sub phase 2A – but some of the service fees are a bit inflated and should be worked out first. Alice Lynch asked if there would be DGS charges on top of costs. Julie Whitlock explained that DGS has the authority to charge 20%. She went on to advise hiring a consultant to review the fees associated with each phase as outlined in the schematic design book because she and her colleagues feel that a lot of the costs are high and some seem to be duplicated. With that discussion, the meeting adjourned.