

**Women of Virginia,
Commemorative Commission
March 29, 2011**

Minutes

Members in attendance:

Secretary Hicks-Thomas	Susan Schaar
Senator Whipple	Bruce Jamerson
Mrs. Em Bowles Locker Alsop	Sandra G. Treadway
Mrs. Mary Blanton Easterly	James E. Wootton
Jacquelin Cook Hedblom	Alice Lynch
Rita D. McClenny	

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Hicks-Thomas who chaired the meeting. Commission members as well as staff were introduced. The items on the Agenda were discussed as follows:

Discussion of Work Plans.

A. Formation of Subcommittees:

Public Outreach Subcommittee

Alice Lynch
Susan Schaar
Mary Easterly
Lissy Bryan

Message Subcommittee

Sen. Whipple
Jacqueline Cook Hedblom
Sandra Treadway
Lisa Hicks-Thomas

Fundraising Subcommittee

Alice Lynch
Em Bowles Locker Alsop
Carol Price
Lissy Bryan
Mary Easterly

Rita McClenny suggested that each subcommittee have a chair that would give an area report to the full Commission at each meeting.

B. Story/Theme

Secretary Hicks-Thomas brought up the subject of having a story or theme that would be helpful in relaying the message to the public and others to raise awareness.

Mrs. Alsop shared her ideas with the Commission. Mrs. Alsop suggested the monument be instructional as well as inspirational to those who visited it. She suggested that all women be included in the recognition (i.e., mothers, teachers, nurses, secretaries, domestic help, telephone operators, etc.) She pointed out that nationally recognized women could be added to the base of the monument.

Sen. Whipple mentioned a competition among the public/groups that could provide creative ideas for a theme or story. She had heard of this and it resulted in providing some good ideas.

C. Site Selection.

The Commission took a walk to potential sites on the grounds of the Capitol, which was led by Jim Wootton of the Capitol Square Preservation Council. The Commission agreed on a site and this will be presented to the Joint Rules Committee and to the Governor for approval.

D. Selecting a Sculpture:

Alice Lynch noted that this could be a lengthy process.

Rita McClenny asked about a timeline. It was noted that at this time there was none, but that it would take approximately one year for the design and creation of the monument.

Susan Schaar mentioned the Civil Rights Monument and that it took approximately three years to complete. Secretary Hicks-Thomas suggested having Lou Kadiri attend the next meeting to discuss what was involved in the design. She also noted that Joe Spiedel, Dean of Sculpture at VCU and Lou Kadiri are two good resources as well as Amy Hautt. Mrs. Alsop added that she had spoken with two Virginia women sculptors, namely Anne Bell and Betty Branch. It was suggested that an architect be brought in for discussion before a sculptor.

E. Fundraising Subcommittee:

Mrs. Alsop stressed including others from around the state for input. Several groups mentioned were the garden clubs, DAR and school alumni. Sandra Treadway noted that the Department of Education could get a memo out to school superintendents throughout the state in an effort to spread the word and that various public hearings throughout the State would be beneficial.

There was discussion on creating a foundation. Alice Lynch noted the Capitol Square Foundation already had 501(c)(3) status and that the Foundation could handle the administrative work of the Commission. She pointed out that at some point in the future as the Commission grew that there might be a need for additional staff. Alice Lynch also noted that the Commission has already raised some monies. Senator Whipple suggested the Capitol Square Foundation receive reimbursement for the administrative costs involved.

Other Business:

Future meetings for 2011:

April 26, @ 11:00 a.m., SR 3, State Capitol

June 14 TBA

September 6 TBA

November 5 TBA

December 1, the Commission would submit its report to the General Assembly.

Meeting was adjourned.

Commission Members

Governor McDonnell, Chairman

Senate: Senator Whipple and Senator Vogel

House: Speaker Howell and Delegate Massie

Citizen: Lissy S. Bryan, Em Bowles Locker Alsop, Mary Abel-Smith, Kitty Claiborne, Carol Price, Mary Blanton Easterly, Jacqueline Cook Hedblom and Rita D. McClenny

Ex officio: Susan Clarke Schaar, Bruce F. Jamerson, Lisa M. Hicks-Thomas, Sandra G. Treadway, James E. Wootton and Alice Lynch