

Women of Virginia Commemorative Commission Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2015
Senate Room A, General Assembly Building,
Richmond, VA

Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Senator Whipple	Krysta Jones	Kitty Claiborne
Senator McDougle	Jacqueline Hedblom	Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Susan Schaar	EJ Scott	Alice Lynch
Lissy Bryan	Lisa M. Hicks-Thomas	
Mary Abel-Smith	Secretary Rodrigues	

Senator Mary Margaret Whipple, Vice-Chair of the Commission, called the meeting to order. After each member was introduced, Senator Whipple recognized and welcomed Carter Alsop, the daughter of the late Em Bowles Locker Alsop, proposer of the Virginia Women's Monument and Commission member. After a moment of silence in honor of Ms. Alsop, remarks were given by several members of the Commission including: Senator Whipple, Susan Schaar, Lissy Bryan, Kitty Claiborne, EJ Scott, Kathleen Kilpatrick, and Jacqueline Hedblom. Senator Whipple asked Secretary Rodrigues if she could arrange to have a flag flown in Ms. Alsop's honor on an appropriate day to be decided with the family.

Kathleen Kilpatrick then overviewed the criteria for names to go on the glass wall that was adopted by the Executive Committee at the last meeting in January. Susan Schaar immediately moved that Em Bowles Alsop's name be added to the wall, making an exception to the 10 year rule (nominees to be honored on the wall must have been deceased for at least 10 years) in honor of her recent passing and being the proposer of the project. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of this. Kathleen Kilpatrick then moved that the criteria be adopted. Before taking a vote, Susan Schaar mentioned that in talking with the artist & design team she learned that with letters at an inch to an inch and a half there would be space for roughly 400 names. Jacqueline Hedblom asked if the criteria are specific enough, and some language was edited in order to narrow down the qualifications appropriately. After a second of the original motion, the Commission approved the criteria unanimously.

Senator Whipple gave a progress report on naming individuals to the Steering Committee. A list of those who have agreed to serve so far was distributed. Lissy Bryan noted that she was working on a few contacts out in Roanoke, Alta Vista, Virginia Beach, and Northern Virginia. Alice Lynch shared the First Ladies' Circle names of those who have agreed to serve: Lynda Robb, Susan Allen, Jeannie Baliles, and Lisa Collis. Secretary Rodrigues added that Secretary Holton and Mrs. Holton have also agreed to join the group. Senator Whipple asked anyone with any other suggestions to email Maribeth with their names and contact information.

A fundraising activity update was given by Alice Lynch, beginning by informing members that many gifts have been made in honor of Ms. Alsop in the wake of her passing. She introduced Charlie Seilheimer and Janet Geldzahler, member and Chairwoman of the Virginia Capitol Foundation Board of Trustees, respectively. She again reminded the Commission

members of those serving on the “Capitol Campaign Cabinet” – Senator Whipple, Lissy Bryan, Delegate Chris Peace, Chief Adams, and Patty Lockridge. She also mentioned the two newest members to the group: Carter Reid, Chief Administrative Officer at Dominion and Jennifer Hunter, Chief Administrative Officer at Altria. This group is involved with overseeing the collective projects occurring on Capitol Square. Ms. Geldzahler and Ms. Lynch both encouraged 100% participation among Commission members, as the VCF Board of Trustees have all been asked to donate to the Campaign. Secretary Rodrigues asked what we had in actual money to date and Ms. Lynch responded with ballpark figures on fundraising thus far. Secretary Rodrigues asked that each future agenda had a running total of all moneys spent/raised. Senator Whipple, noting that the discussion would continue once the fundraising subcommittee meets upon completion of the agenda, made three charges to the members of the Commission: 1) make a contribution; 2) give Lissy, Maribeth, or herself names of 5 people (name, contact information, and a “ballpark” ask amount) to approach for contributions; and 3) do one thing to promote the Monument between now and the next meeting, and be prepared to share that with the Commission.

Senator Whipple opened the floor to public comment. Betty Jolly, member of the Steering Committee, introduced herself and expressed her excitement about the project and working with the Commission. Senator Whipple then announced that the fundraising subcommittee would meet for a few minutes and that all were welcome to attend and participate.