

Women of Virginia, Commemorative Commission
April 28, 2014, 10:30 AM
Senate Room A, General Assembly Building
Richmond, Virginia

Minutes

Members in attendance:

Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple, Vice Chair
Secretary Nancy Rodrigues
Susan Schaar
Paul Nardo
Lisa M. Hicks-Thomas

Del. Jimmie Massie
Lissy Bryan
Em Bowles Alsop
Alice Lynch
Kathleen Kilpatrick

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair, Senator Whipple. She then welcomed everyone to the meeting and members introduced themselves. Special note was made that former Chair and Secretary of Administration, Lisa M. Hicks-Thomas, was rejoining the Commission as an Ex Officio member. Senator Whipple noted that the meeting was intended to discuss fundraising and to adopt the Virginia Capitol Foundation fundraising agreement, first hearing from Jeffrey Wilt from the Monument Group and the report on fundraising from Lissy Bryan, Fundraising Chair for the Commission.

After being introduced by Alice Lynch, Mr. Jeffrey Wilt from the Monument Group gave a report. He explained his background and qualifications and then reviewed the process by which he plans to help in fundraising. This process will begin with a “testing” phase, where he will gauge the willingness of possible givers to donate based on the overall plan of the Capitol Square Campaign project. After the “testing” phase, a solicitation plan will be implemented. Members of the Commission should come up with a list of “prospects” in order to cultivate and help solicit gifts. Senator Whipple asked for clarification that the Capitol Square Project was what the Monument Group would be raising funds for as whole, with the Women’s Monument being part of that project. Delegate Massie asked Mr. Wilt what all was involved with the Capitol Square Campaign Project. Ric Arenstein, Chair of the VCF Board, explained that all projects on Capitol Square are included in the campaign, with the Women’s Monument being a third of the total dollar amount needed to be raised (the whole project is expected to cost about \$10 million, but hopes the price can be lower than that eventually – Senator Whipple explained that we hope to negotiate with the artist for the Women’s Monument as well). Ms. Alsop suggested that some people would be hesitant to give based on their feelings about certain individuals being excluded from the bronze figures, and Senator Whipple responded that she knew some would feel that way but those she has talked to have not expressed that opinion.

Lissy Bryan, Chair of Fundraising for the Commission, followed up on Mr. Wilt’s presentation. She also responded to Ms. Alsop’s statement, saying that she felt like the educational component of the Monument will inspire everyone tremendously and trump any negative feelings about those selected to be cast in bronze. She said that this monument is a springboard for learning more about these women who might not be so widely known, and will

tell their story. Senator Whipple added to Ms. Bryan's presentation, saying that she had been working with the Northern Virginia Technology Council, who is willing to help publicize and work with the Commission on the educational side of things technology related (help create an "app," etc.). Alice Lynch added that the Parsons Foundation has offered a 1 to 1 matching grant of \$100,000 – of which there is \$10,000 already.

Next, the Memorandum of Understanding with the Virginia Capitol Foundation was discussed. The Attorney General's office made clarifications to the MOU, as did the Department of General Services. DGS' comments and suggestions to the document were approved by the Attorney General's office as well. Some aspects of the contract were unclear to the members and these items were clarified by Ms. Lynch and Senator Whipple. Lisa Hicks-Thomas moved that the Memorandum of Understanding be adopted, Del. Massie seconding the motion. All members except for Ms. Alsop voted for the adoption of the MOU.

In closing as part of the time allotted for public comments, Dr. Laurant Lee from the Virginia Historical Society introduced herself and offered the Commission her services and knowledge if needed. The meeting adjourned at 11:53 PM, with no date set for the next meeting. As usual, members will be polled for availability.