

Women of Virginia,
Commemorative Commission
May 23, 2013

Minutes

Members in attendance:

Secretary Lisa M. Hicks-Thomas	Delegate Jimmie Massie
Senator Ryan McDougle	Paul Nardo
Susan Clarke Schaar	Lissy Bryan
Em Bowles Locker Alsop	Sandra G. Treadway
Mary Blanton Easterly	Senator Mary Margaret Whipple
Alice Lynch	Jacqueline Hedblom

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Lisa Hicks-Thomas. Commission members introduced themselves. The minutes of the last meeting on March 21, 2013, were adopted. Secretary Hicks-Thomas discussed recent conversations with the artists who were not selected. At the end of the conversations, artists Davis Buckley and Joanna Blake asked Secretary Hicks-Thomas if the final designs that were not chosen could be displayed publicly. Secretary Hicks-Thomas expressed concern that public display could cause confusion. After discussion that the stipend and travel expenses given to each artist for their models was satisfactory, Mrs. Alsop moved and it was seconded to decline the request for public display of models not chosen, stating it would create confusion. Motion was approved unanimously. Mrs. Schaar announced she respectfully declined payment for travel voucher submitted by Davis Buckley for picking up his artwork since that expense was not included in the RFP. Secretary Hicks-Thomas announced that Mrs. Schaar did check the references of the winning team before calling them and those references turned out to be good.

Secretary Hicks-Thomas then initiated the discussion on women to be featured on the Monument. Dr. Treadway handed out a first draft of suggested women taken from informal discussions with university historians from Virginia Commonwealth University, George Mason University, Norfolk State University, Clemson University, and University of Virginia. She presented three options for the Monument. One option is to depict specific women on the Monument. Option two would be to depict representational women. The third option would have a combination of the two, and that option was the professors' least favorite given the possibility of confusion. She then presented a list of 12 women suggested. When asked by Mrs. Alsop why Pocahontas was not on the list, Dr. Treadway said that in light of the Virginia Indian community concerns with depicting Pocahontas on the Monument she had asked the historians for other suggestions if the commission decides to go with specific women and not include Pocahontas. Discussion commenced over choosing representational women or specific women. Secretary Hicks-Thomas read the resolution to clarify that the Monument does not have to include specific women, but to honor the contributions of women in Virginia. Mrs. Lynch pointed out that there will be two ways to recognize women on the Monument. The first is through the 12 bronze figures, and the second is through the names inscribed on the glass wall. Delegate Massie asked if there was something comparable in other states. Mrs. Schaar said that there was no other

Monument on the grounds of a state capitol to this scope. She also mentioned that much of the feedback she has received is in favor of representational women to be able to include those women who would not be listed on the wall. Mrs. Bryan said there would be more of an overall instructive opportunity if the figures were symbolic of certain professions or categories of contribution. Mr. Nardo followed up by saying that representational figures would be more inclusive. Senator McDougle commented on how difficult it would be to narrow down the selection to 12 specific individuals. Senator Whipple brought up the educational and interactive opportunities from having representational figures and then finding the names of specific women on the glass wall.

Ms. Karenne Wood, member of the Monacan Indian Nation and Director of Virginia Indian Programs at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, addressed the Commission on issues of representation. She said it is more important to represent the contributions of all the people and how community is more important than the person. She also highlighted the importance of Latina women and those women who stayed at home to raise their families.

Discussion continued on the three options. Mrs. Schaar was in favor of representation as to provide teachable moments. Mrs. Bryan suggested the third option of both representational and actual figures is doable. Senator Whipple suggested that if the third option was chosen it could be presented to the artist as to how to present both and if it wasn't satisfactory there was still the option of going all representational. Dr. Treadway brought up the importance of the educational programming that goes with the Monument. Secretary Hicks-Thomas thought it would be extremely hard to choose just 12 specific women yet thought certain teaching moments would be lost if there were not specific women. She also mentioned the marketing opportunities involved with choosing specific women. Mrs. Lynch brought up the success of the Civil Rights Monument and how it is both specific and representational. Delegate Massie suggested waiting on making a decision. It was moved and seconded that the Commission would make a decision at the next meeting. A vote was taken on having all 12 figures be specific women and found none in favor. A decision was made to ask the artist how to present a combination of specific and representational and have that reported at the next meeting. Senator Whipple expressed the importance of educators on the list. Mrs. Schaar brought up the importance of designing a way to leave room for new names in the future.

Mrs. Lynch started the discussion on fundraising and presented the estimated cost for the Monument at \$2 million. Factoring in the cost of educational programs, maintenance, and marketing and fundraising, the estimated total cost would be \$3 million. She also made Commission members aware of other Capitol Square fundraising efforts such as the Indian Monument, First Responders Memorial, and the First Lady's projects. She suggested the commission combine efforts with the Capitol Foundation and the Indian Commission under one umbrella under the auspices of supporting Capitol Square and interpreting Capitol Square in order to help with fundraising. She mentioned that the Indian Commission is on board and they would like to meet with members of the commission to discuss. She encouraged the members to figure out how to move forward in the future. Senator Whipple expressed concerns that donors would receive a mixed message. Mrs. Lynch suggested that the joint efforts could be used for corporations and foundations while individuals would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Mrs. Bryan suggested meeting first with the monument group and the Executive Committee was then tasked with doing so.

Secretary Hicks-Thomas adjourned the meeting, with the next Executive Committee meeting set for June 11, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. There was no set date for the next full commission meeting.