

**Women of Virginia,  
Commemorative Commission  
June 14, 2011**

**Revised Minutes**

Members in attendance:

Secretary Hicks-Thomas  
Senator Whipple  
Mrs. Em Bowles Locker Alsop  
Mrs. Mary Blanton Easterly  
Jacquelin Cook Hedblom

Susan Schaar  
Mrs. Mary Abel-Smith  
Sandra G. Treadway  
James E. Wootton  
Alice Lynch

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Hicks-Thomas. Mrs. Lissy Bryan called in and monitored part of the meeting. Commission members were introduced and condolences were expressed on the death of Bruce Jamerson. Minutes of the last meeting on March 29, 2011 were corrected and adopted. A revised copy of those minutes will be sent to the members.

The following items on the Agenda were discussed:

Sandra Treadway of the Message Subcommittee read the following draft message statement:

"In 2010 the General Assembly created a Commemorative Commission to honor the contributions of the women of Virginia. The Commission seeks to memorialize and pay tribute to the contributions that women have made to our state's and our nation's history by erecting a Monument in their honor in a prominent place on the grounds of Capitol Square. This Monument will stand as a reminder of the vital role that women have played in public and private life and will serve as an inspiration to future generations of Virginians. It is the Commission's hope that the Monument will also spark inquiry and encourage educational endeavors highlighting Virginia women's accomplishments across four centuries -- and beyond".

Mrs. Alsop suggested that when reference is made to the word "Monument," that it should always be capped. Senator Whipple made a motion, and it was agreed to, that the mission statement be adopted.

Joseph Seipel, Dean of the VCU School of the Arts addressed the Commission regarding the process. He stated that he had worked on the Civil Rights Memorial and the Public Safety Memorial and remarked on the number of things that need to be done, i.e., fundraising, location of the Monument and content on the Monument. He informed the Committee on several ways that artists could be found. One way would be to hire a consultant, develop a schematic, and have the consultant go out and bring back four or five artists for selection. Another way would be through "*Sculpture Magazine*." The mission statement would be printed in the back of the magazine soliciting portfolios from interested artists. He stated this method would cast a larger net.

A question was asked as to the average cost per artist, and Dean Seipel stated that it would cost approximately \$2,000 per artist to have sketches provided and \$5,000 per artist for actual models made. He recommended narrowing the submissions down to five artists.

Senator Whipple said the average cost of a professional consultant could be anywhere from pro bono to \$10,000. Senator Whipple further stated that she like both ideas.

Dean Seipel stated that the Emergency Workers Memorial did just that. The Commission looked at around 50-60 proposals and narrowed them down to five. The five artists did a model and spoke with the Commission. Dean Seipel further stated that the cost of the Monument needed to be decided because it will make a difference as to who it will attract.

Secretary Hicks-Thomas asked how long the process would take. Dean Seipel said it could take anywhere from six months to a year because of the number of committees that might need to approve the work. Once the Commission has decided on the wording, the wording would be sent to the magazine and the magazine would put it on their website. Images would then be sent to the Commission via the website. It could take from 30-60 days to develop an idea and produce a model. He also mentioned that outdoor monuments are expensive and wording should be included the contract about hiring subcontractors due to the fact that many artists use large studios and have to use overhead cranes to move and transport the monuments. He further remarked on the importance of having a contract properly drawn, including copyrights and in that contract making sure that someone is assigned to finish the project just in case the artists is unable to do so. Mary Abel-Smith remarked that she knew someone who would do it pro bono.

Secretary Hicks-Thomas spoke on Virginia's Public Safety Memorial Commission and provided a handout that it used to seek proposals for the outdoor sculpture. The handout included background, purpose, and the objectives. It also included information on proposal submissions and the deadline for submission.

The subject of final costs of the Monument was brought up and Dean Speidel said the final costs would depend upon the size of the Monument. He said that from one-third to 50% of the money should be committed before starting the process. He said the order of process would be site selection, mission statement, solicit proposals and fundraising. He mentioned that the approximate cost of the Civil Rights Memorial was \$3 million.

Mrs. Alsop, Original Proposer of the Monument and Sponsoring Committee, gave a report on possible topics and design of the Monument, including a desired emphasis on History.

Richard Sliwoski, Director of General Services, spoke to the Commission on the importance of working in conjunction with The Capitol Foundation. He said that maintenance costs should be included in the contract and, further, that a height restriction clause (approximately 10 to 15 feet) needed to be included in the solicitation proposal going out to the artists. He also mentioned that it would be important to know in advance if it is the artist's intent to have a walkway around the Monument.

The topic of the site approval from Joint Rules was brought up and Senator Whipple thought it that could be done at the next meeting of Joint Rules. It was also brought up that General Services needed to approve the site as well.

Secretary Hicks-Thomas asked the Commission members their thoughts on retaining a consultant. Mr. Sliwoski suggested that if the Commission wants to go that route, they should select one that specializes in art and sculptures.

Alice Lynch suggested looking for an attorney who specialized in entertainment law.

Susan -- email from Mrs. Bryan regarding how the commission could be structured to quickly and efficiently get the ball rolling and move this project along.

Several Subcommittees were formed and the following members were selected:

Monument Subcommittee (Work with General Services)

Senator Whipple  
Mary Abel-Smith  
Susan Schaar  
Paul Nardo  
Jim Wootton

Communication Subcommittee (fundraising, budget for communications)

History Subcommittee (Research people)

Finance Subcommittee (Oversee donations)

Consultant Search Subcommittee

Secretary Hicks-Thomas  
Em Bowles Alsop  
Jackie Hedblom

The next meeting of the Commission is set for September 6, 2011 @ 2:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.