

Women of Virginia
Commemorative Commission
Executive Board
June 28, 2013

Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Secretary Lisa M. Hicks-Thomas
Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple
Susan C. Schaar
Sandra Treadway

Alice Lynch
Em Bowles Locker Alsop
Jacqueline Cook Hedblom

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Lisa M. Hicks-Thomas. Members of the Executive Board introduced themselves. Greetings were then exchanged between Commission members and members of the design team, Ivan Schwartz from StudioEIS and John Crank from The 1717 Design Group.

After greetings, Secretary Hicks-Thomas went on to discuss new and continuing items of business. She presented two letters to the Commission, one from the NOVA Coalition and the other from the Virginia Capitol Foundation. The Secretary explained that the NOVA Coalition submitted a letter of seven individuals whom they believe have the attributes to warrant an honor on the Monument. Alice Lynch then went over the contents of the letter submitted to the Commission by the Virginia Capitol Foundation. She explained that the board voted unanimously in favor of the design of “Voices in the Garden” as presented. Members of the foundation were also in agreement on the scale and low profile of the Monument, ability of visitors to walk among the statues, the virtual component to allow voices of women to be heard, representational women in the bronze figures and listing women of achievement on the glass wall such that additions can be made in perpetuity.

Secretary Hicks-Thomas then opened the meeting up to an open discussion where Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Crank gave a presentation on the design team approach for the remainder of the project. Mr. Crank established that he would be the primary point of contact for The 1717 Design Group and Mr. Schwartz would be the contact for StudioEIS. The artist continued to elaborate on the remainder of the building process along with the role of StudioEIS in sculpture development. The artist remarked that their teams will be involved with schematic design, design development, construction documents, production, bidding and negotiations, as well as construction administration.

Members of the Executive Board asked the artist how long the Commission has to decide on the specifics of the bronze figures in the Monument. Mr. Schwartz responded that members of the Commission have some time to decide. Phase I will take around 2-3 months and by the end the figures should be decided on. Mr. Schwartz clarified that different costumes will take

different amounts of time to produce, due to details and difficulty. Mr. Schwartz also noted that it would be important to choose what period in a person's life we want to represent in the Monument.

Susan Schaar inquired about the marketing materials that would be provided to the Commission from the design team. The artists remarked that their proposal was to provide the Commission with a schematic design plan – a bound document that defines materials, designs, characters, narratives, and other relevant information. Alice Lynch confirmed that while this document will be provided in a whole, the Commission can also pull out specific pieces to use as needed.

During the discussion, Em Bowles Locker Alsop brought up the discussion held at the end of the last Executive Board meeting on whether a larger structure could be added to the existing Monument. Mr. Schwartz responded that although permission to add the structure would have to come from the Commission as a whole, he was willing to do so if requested. Mr. Schwartz also noted that the cost of the Monument would be increased by adding such a figure. The decision was then made for Mr. Schwartz and the design team to investigate the potential for adding a larger structure.

Members of the design team then went over the implementation of the team's two-year schedule. Throughout the next two years, members explained the building process taking place in six phases. Phase 1-Schematic Design, Phase 2-Design Development, Phase 3-Construction Documents, Phase 4-Bidding & Negotiations, Phase 5-Construction/Fabrication, and Phase 6-Figure Installation. The team then began to discuss the ideal revelation date for the Monument. The Commission agreed that the ideal month to unveil the sculpture would be March because it is National Women's History Month. Due to the current timetable the artist agreed the probable revelation date would be in March 2016.

Members of the Executive Board then moved on to discuss the budget and fundraising efforts for the remainder of the project. The design team noted that the cost of the current design is right around \$2 million. Mr. Schwartz explained that the exact cost of the Monument will be hard to determine until the appearance of the bronze figures have been decided, as the cost will vary depending on height, size, and costume. Mr. Crank explained that as the process begins to unfold, the budget will be updated a couple of times a month, so the final number will be easier to pinpoint. The team also noted that the cost of the first phase will be about \$75,000-\$80,000 and that the completion of this phase will be crucial in helping to bring in money for the remaining phases. Lastly, Mr. Crank remarked that it was the opinion of the artists that the Executive Board should meet once a month until the end of Phase I to discuss important decisions regarding the building process. Secretary Hicks-Thomas then adjourned the meeting.