

Final MINUTES

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL STATUES IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

August 7, 2020, 9:30 A.M.

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Dr. Edward Ayers

Dr. Colita Fairfax

Senator Louise Lucas

Delegate Jeion Ward

Dr. Fred Motley

Chief Anne Richardson

Ms. Margie Vanderhye

Ms. Julie Langan, Ex Officio

ATTENDEES:

Deputy Secretary Joshua Saks

DHR STAFF:

Ms. Stephanie Williams

Ms. Jennifer Pullen

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lucas called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Ms. Langan took attendance by roll call. All members were present.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA AND JULY 24th MINUTES

A motion to approve the agenda and July 24th meeting minutes was made by Dr. Fairfax. Dr. Motley seconded. The vote passed unanimously and was taken by roll call.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Langan introduced Bo Hammond for public comment.

Mr. Hammond spoke in favor of the removal of the Robert E. Lee statue from the U.S. Capitol. He suggested that George Marshall would be a good replacement.

STATUS OF REQUEST TO REMOVE ROBERT E. LEE STATUE

Ms. Langan reviewed the steps taken to start the process of removing the Robert E. Lee Statue from the U.S. Capitol including the letter from Governor Northam to the Architect of the Capitol (copy provided to the Commission and posted to the Commission's website).

BOARD DISCUSSION REGARDING DISPOSITION OF STATUE

Ms. Langan stated that the Robert E. Lee statue should be placed in a suitable state, local or private non-profit history organization. There will need to be a legal document for the transfer of ownership.

Dr. Ayers made a motion for the Commission request that the Virginia Museum of History & Culture consider acceptance of the statue. Dr. Fairfax supported this recommendation; Ms. Vanderhye seconds the motion. The vote passed unanimously and was taken by roll call.

APPROVAL OF THE INTERIM REPORT

Chief Anne Richardson made a motion to approve the interim report. Dr. Motley seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously and was taken by roll call.

NEXT STEPS

Ms. Langan presented next steps for the Commission which include sending the interim report to the General Assembly, arranging for the statue's removal, creating a budget for the entire process and conducting a public hearing for input regarding the replacement statue. See PowerPoint.

Dr. Fairfax asked if there had been any written comments received. Ms. Langan responded that three comments had been submitted via email since the July 24th meeting and that they had been shared with Commission members and posted to the Commission's webpage.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lucas called the meeting to adjourn. Vice Chair Ward made a motion which was seconded by Chief Anne Richardson. The vote passed unanimously and was taken by roll call.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:48 a.m.