

FINAL MINUTES

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL STATUES IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

October 8, 2020, 10:30 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

WELCOME

Ms. Langan welcomed everyone and introduced Chair Lucas.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lucas called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

Ms. Langan took attendance by roll call. All members were present. Chair Lucas asked members to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Dr. Ayers. Dr. Fairfax seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 27, 2020 MINUTES

A motion to approve the August 27th meeting minutes was made by Delegate Ward. Dr. Fairfax seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

STATUS OF REQUEST TO REMOVE ROBERT E. LEE STATUE

Ms. Langan reviewed the steps taken to initiate the process of removing the Robert E. Lee Statue from the U.S. Capitol. See PowerPoint.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Langan gave a summary of written public comment since the August 27, 2020 meeting, see PowerPoint. She stated that all written comments have been posted to the Commission's webpage.

Oral comments were heard from members of the public who had registered in advance to speak.

David Roll recommended George C. Marshall as the replacement for Robert E. Lee and agreed with the Commission's proposed criteria for selecting a replacement.

Bo Hammond recommended George C. Marshall as the replacement for Robert E. Lee. He stated his belief that this should be a fair and open process and the subject to replace Lee should be someone with a positive impact.

Mary Stevens recommended Mary Custis Lee as the replacement for Robert E. Lee for her actions against Jim Crow laws.

Sean McCort recommended George C. Marshall as the replacement for Robert E. Lee.

Volpe Boykin recommended George C. Marshall or Booker T. Washington as the replacement for Robert E. Lee though he disagreed with removing Lee.

Avis Thomas recommended Dr. Robert Russa Moton as the replacement for Robert E. Lee.

NEXT STEPS

Ms. Langan presented the proposed timeline, budget and process for selecting the subject of the replacement statue, see PowerPoint.

Chair Lucas asked the Commission if there were any questions.

Dr. Ayers suggested that suggestions/thoughts be solicited from Virginia school children.

Ms. Langan agreed and noted that the recent Governor's contest for selecting highway markers during Black History Month served as a recent model for how to solicit student participation.

Dr. Fairfax agreed with Dr. Ayers' suggestion and proposed amending the timeline to include time to solicit Virginia school children suggestions; she made a motion accordingly. Dr. Motley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed the proposed timeline for tasks to be accomplished over the next six months.

Dr. Fairfax questioned the sufficiency of the \$75k estimate contained within the draft budget for the unveiling of the replacement statue.

Ms. Langan confirmed that the amount was an estimate based on the experiences of other states. Chair Lucas stated there will be a budget amendment for the funds.

Ms. Langan presented proposed criteria for the Commission to consider when selecting the subject of the replacement statue.

Following discussion among the members, Ms. Langan asked that the Commission adopt the criteria. Dr. Ayers made a motion, Vice Chair Ward seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lucas called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Ward made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Motley. The motion passed unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:36 a.m.

[October 8 Presentation.pptx](#)