

FINAL MINUTES

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL STATUES IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

December 16, 2020, 3:00 PM.

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

Mr. Andy Poole, IT

WELCOME

Ms. Langan welcomed everyone and introduced Chair Lucas.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lucas called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

There was not a motion to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 8 AND NOVEMBER 17, 2020 MINUTES

A motion to approve the October 8 and November 17, 2020 meeting minutes was made by Delegate Ward. Ms. Vanderhye seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

STATUS OF REQUEST TO REMOVE ROBERT E. LEE STATUE

Ms. Langan updated the Commission on the steps taken in removing the Robert E. Lee Statue from the U.S. Capitol. She reported that she has been working with the staff at the Office of the Architect of the US Capitol to arrange for the removal of the Lee statue. Removal must adhere to strict protocols so as not to interfere with the activities of Congress. DHR has handled the procurement and selected a rigger who has prior experience moving statues in the Statuary Hall collection, including the Lee statue. Scheduling the removal has been a challenge, due to Congress being in session and the need for removal to occur after hours, typically in the middle of the night. Removal is expected to take place before the end of the year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Langan gave a summary of written public comment since the October 8, 2020 meeting. She stated that all written comments have been posted to the Commission's webpage. She reported that the majority of public comment received was focused on suggestions for the person to replace Lee. There were 371 comments that resulted in a list of 83 persons nominated.

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

Rick Tatnall recommended Pocahontas.
Sarah Peet recommended Oliver Hill, Maggie Walker or Pocahontas.
Jack Kennedy recommended Maggie Walker.
Alice Lynch recommended Barbara Johns.
Cameron Patterson recommended Barbara Johns.
Dick Edmunds recommended Pocohontas.
Senator Henry Marsh recommended Oliver Hill.
Gay Pasley recommended Pocahontas.
Maura Keeney recommended Barbara Johns.
Henry Thomasson recommended Pocahontas.
Bo Hammond recommended Oliver Hill.
Sandra Morris recommended Katherine Johnson.
Avis Thomas recommended Robert Moton.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS FOR SELECTING SUBJECT OF REPLACEMENT STATUE

Ms. Langan gave an overview of the process for selecting subject or replacement statue. See PowerPoint.

OVERVIEW OF THE FIVE FINALISTS

Ms. Langan gave an overview of Oliver W. Hill, Barbara Rose Johns, John Mercer Langston, Pocahontas, Maggie Lena Walker. See PowerPoint.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND SELECTION OF REPLACEMENT SUBJECT

Chair Lucas opened the floor for discussion.

Dr. Fairfax discussed the importance of the making the choice of the replacement subject.

Chair Lucas emphasized the timeline for selecting a subject and that it is a democratic process.

Ms. Vanderhye expressed being pleased with the list of finalists and her support of Barbara Johns.

Vice-chair Ward enthusiastically endorsed Barbara Johns.

Mr. Ayers discussed the importance of public comments and supports the recommendation of Barbara Johns.

Chief Anne Richardson recommended Pocahontas and highlighted her accomplishments.

Dr. Motley recommended Oliver Hill and Barbara Johns.

Dr. Fairfax supports Barbara Johns as a replacement statue.

Chair Lucas discussed next steps and timelines regarding the selection.

Vice-chair Ward made a motion to nominate Barbara Rose Johns to replace Robert E. Lee. Ms. Vanderhye seconded the motion. Roll call was taken. All members voted yes except Chief Anne Richardson.

NEXT STEPS

Ms. Langan discussed the removal of the Lee statue, the process for the General Assembly and budget. See PowerPoint.

Ms. Langan recommended that the Commission meet next to discuss the sculptor selection process after the upcoming General Assembly session adjourns.

Deputy Secretary Saks thanked the Commission.

Ms. Vanderhye expressed the importance of the selection.

Vice-chair Ward thanked everyone.

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ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lucas called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Vanderhye made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ayers. The motion passed unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 5:15 p.m.



Meeting 6 pp.ppt