**DRAFT MINUTES**

**COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL STATUES IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL**

**July 21, 2022, 10:00 a.m.**

Virginia Museum of History & Culture

Reynolds Leadership Center – 2nd Floor

428 N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard, Richmond

**COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

Senator L. Louise Lucas

Delegate Jeion Ward

Dr. Edward Ayers

Dr. Colita Fairfax

Dr. Fred Motley

Ms. Margie Vanderhye

Ms. Julie Langan, Ex Officio

**ATTENDEES:**

Deputy Secretary Corey Scott and Governor’s Fellow intern

Alexia Assam, VMFA

Press

**DHR STAFF:**

Ms. Stephanie Williams

Ms. Jennifer Pullen

Ms. Jolene Smith

Ms. Eunice Carter

Ms. Leslie Straub

**WELCOME**

Ms. Langan welcomed everyone and introduced Chair Lucas.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lucas called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Ms. Langan took attendance by roll call. Chair Lucas asked attendees to introduce themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

Chair Lucas asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Vice Chair Ward made the motion. Dr. Colita Fairfax seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE March 3, 2021 MINUTES**

Chair Lucas asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the March 3, 2021 meeting minutes was made by Vice Chair Jeion Ward. Dr. Colita Fairfax seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Langan gave a summary of written public comment received since the March 3, 2021 meeting. She stated that all written comments have been posted to the Commission’s webpage. She reported that comments focused on a request for public events and celebrations leading up to the unveiling of the statue, submission of a photograph of Barbara Johns, and a request to be appointed to the Commission.

No one registered to speak, so there were no oral public comments.

**CONTACT WITH THE BARBARA JOHNS FAMILY**

Ms. Langan reported that she was recently in contact with two members of the Johns family regarding status of the statue. The family will be introduced to the selected artist once he is under contract. She reported that the family was understanding of the Commission’s need to meet in closed session to discuss sculptors.

**PROGRESS AND BUDGET UPDATE**

Ms. Langan summarized the approval process to date of the Barbara Rose Johns statue. She emphasized the importance of following the state procurement process which is nearing completion. She additionally emphasized the importance of confidentiality of the sculptor and the statue’s artistic details until closure of procurement process.

Ms. Langan summarized the funds appropriated by the General Assembly and the expenditures to date. She reviewed the original budget, as well as revised version and shared that the total projected cost remained unchanged. Langan further reported that a decision brief requesting that the unexpended fund balance be carried forward to the current fiscal year was working its way through the approval process which requires the approval of Governor Youngkin. She additionally stated that the contract with a sculptor will not be awarded until the request to carry forward the unexpended appropriation has been approved.

Ms. Langan clarified budget details upon request of Chair Lucas.

The Commission discussed the recent unveiling of Florida’s statue of Mary McLeod Bethune.

Ms. Langan summarized the remaining expenses around the statue’s installment, with commentary on the impact of inflation. She stated the possibility that the estimated $20,000 contingency included in the budget may be available for additional events celebrating Virginia’s new statue. Ms. Langan compared the differences in Florida’s budget to Virginia’s.

The Commission discussed strategies to maximize networking and raise funds for celebratory unveiling events.

Ms. Langan called on Ms. Carter for further explanation of the procurement process who reported that DHR had issued an RFQ and an RFP for non-professional services. Ms. Carter continued to summarize the evaluation and selection process, including the future negotiations with the selected artist, and public announcement.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Lucas moved to begin the closed session. Dr. Ayers seconded. Ms. Langan took a roll call vote. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Lucas certified the closed session.

Chair Luas moved to come out of closed session. Ms. Vanderhye seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**DISCUSSION**

Ms. Langan announced a sculpture had been selected. She listed the next steps in the procurement process and described future communication between the artist and Commission. She added that the next steps will lead to a more accurate timeline of the statue’s completion and installation. Ms. Langan re-stated that once contract has been executed, the Johns family will be introduced to the sculpture. She further added that once the contract has been executed, a joint meeting between the Commission, Johns family, and sculptor will be scheduled.

Ms. Vanderhye commented on the need for attention to the sensitive details of the statue. The Commission agreed.

Chair Lucas asked for a motion to reconvene with the Johns family and sculptor. Dr. Ayers made the motion. Dr. Motley seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 1:02 p.m.**