

Minutes for Hampton 2019 Commemorative Commission

January 9, 2019 – 4:00 p.m. at Hampton History Museum

Attending: Steven Bond, Terry E. Brown, Jimmy Cerracchio, Luci Cochran, Terri Crickenberger, Colita Fairfax, Mary Fugere, Larry Gibson, Jimmy Gray, Artisia Green, Simeon Green, William Harper, Susan Lineberry, Mike Kuhns, Jonathan McBride, Will Moffett, Synetheia Newby, Glenn Oder, Darcy Sink, Phyllis Terrell, Donnie Tuck, Claude Vann, William Wiggins, Audrey Williams

Excused Absence: Aaron Firth, Billie Einselen, Hugh Harrell, Raymond Tripp, Rob Shuford

Absent: Ann Bane

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Lt. Col. Claude Vann. Roll call was completed. Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes with noted correction. Motion carried.

Co-Chairs Report:

Claude Vann shared that he is part of an organization that will provide prizes for the essay and art contests. He will share the name of the organization at a later date. Dr. Colita Fairfax asked that we all mark our calendars for the upcoming School Board meetings and plan to attend. The School Board meeting dates are February 7, March 7 and June 6.

Committee Reports:

The Commemoration Committee is moving forward. They will be meeting on January 16 and will have a report to bring back to us. Calvin Pearson will be invited to speak at their next meeting. This Committee would like to have former President Obama and his wife, Michelle attend in 2019. The subcommittee met and shared they don't have enough money for 400 drummers, so that is out. The food and culture event is also out. There will be a VIP reception on August 23, 2019 and there will be an evening concert on August 24, 2019. And there will be a commemorative ceremony. There may be a bell-ringing, a documentary and a proclamation that will be read on Sunday. They have discussed possibly making a quilt and everyone could be a part of it. The GAIN project may be taken off. This all should be ready for approval by the Executive Committee. Things are still in flux and we will vote on this at the next meeting. They hope to have Lonnie Bunch with the African American Cultural Museum as a possible speaker. Bill Harper shared that Lonnie Bunch has been invited to the William Tucker cemetery ceremony on January 26 and there was no honorarium discussed.

The Education and Awareness Committee met on January 5. Colita Fairfax shared that on Page 17 of the Report, the total cost is \$157,450. This committee would like to remove some of those costs, but keep the activities. This would put them at \$85,950.

The Marketing Committee shared that the marketing plan and strategy still holds, except they would like to request \$30,000 instead of \$65,000 and they will adjust those items. The Resource Committee needs a chairman since Laura Fitzpatrick was the chairman. They also need a Vice Chairman. It was decided that this will be tabled for the time being.

Old Business:

It was suggested that we need to start budgeting the \$210,000 that Mary Bunting will be giving this Commission. Breakdown of the \$210,000: \$30,000 for Marketing, \$85,000 for the Education and Awareness Committee. This leaves \$95,000. It was suggested that the \$95,000 would go to the Commemoration Committee Commission. Motion was made by Artisia Green that we appropriate \$90,000 to the Signature Events Committee, \$90,000 to the Education and Awareness Committee and \$30,000 to Marketing Committee. Motion seconded. A vote was taken and it was a unanimous vote in favor of this division of the \$210,000.

It was mentioned that there will be outside donations, also. The \$210,000 is for 2018 and 2019. Terry E. Brown shared that the National Park Service will commit to \$95,000.

New Business:

Claude Vann shared that we need to consider putting new members that live in the city of Hampton on the Board. This will need to be voted on by City Council. We are shooting for the February council meeting, but March is the absolute deadline. There is an application on the city website under Boards and Commissions that each applicant needs to complete. High school students are welcome and they must be at least 16 years of age. Will Moffett introduced Jimmy Gray, our new City Council Liaison. It was suggested that the transition can be made all at once at the council meeting in February.

The Visitor Center at Fort Monroe hopes to get bids by the end of February. \$5-\$6 million is a substantial investment for 2019. They have received a \$250,000 challenge grant, so they need to work hard to get that money. For donations for the challenge grant, you may go to the Fort Monroe Authority website to donate. Donation funds will be used on exhibits at the new Visitor Center.

Bill Harper shared that a skull was discovered in the William Tucker Cemetery when renovations were being done. The skull has been sent to Richmond and is in the custody of the State of Virginia. The skull is of an eighty-year-old woman of African-American descent. The deceased will be buried on January 26 at a ceremony at the William Tucker Cemetery. He extended an invitation to this Commission and shared that the ceremony will be open to the public. He shared that over 150 new graves were recently discovered at the Tucker Family Cemetery.

Around the Table:

There will be a ceremony with the new plaque on the renaming of the bridge to Fort Monroe on January 15 at 1 p.m. Mary Fugere shared that the CVB submitted an RFP for marketing services, which closed on Monday. Colita Fairfax mentioned the essay and art contest and don't forget to attend the February 7th School Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.