

Minutes for Hampton 2019 Commemorative Commission

September 4, 2018 – 4:00 p.m. at Hampton History Museum

Attending: Ann Bane, Steven Bond, Luci Cochran, Colita Fairfax, Aaron Firth, Ryan Fontes-Taylor, Mary Fugere, Larry Gibson, Jimmy Gray, Simeon Green, Hugh Harrell, Jonathan McBride, Glenn Oder, Raymond Tripp, Claude Vann, Vanessa Thaxton-Ward, Bill Wiggins, Annette Oakley

Excused Absence: Terry Brown, Billie Einselen, Kemi Layeni, Dionne Redding, Rob Shuford, Audrey Williams

Absent: Brittany Foster

Guests: Calvin Pearson (Project 1619), Donnie Tuck (Hampton Mayor), Susan Lineberry (Fort Monroe), Ryan Downey (CVB)

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Lt. Col. Claude Vann. He welcomed commissioners and guests, and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Roll call was completed.

Virginia 2019 Commemoration Presentation:

Claude Vann introduced and welcomed Kathy Spangler, who gave a presentation regarding the Virginia 2019 Commemoration Update, which is on file. She shared information on their Fort Monroe videos; Mary Fugere will send the video links to the commissioners. Ms. Spangler also shared upcoming activities, performances, documentaries and events. She stated they have a total of thirteen signature events and fifteen legacy projects for the commemoration. Glenn Oder also added comments about the 2019 events and exhibits that will be at Fort Monroe. Ms. Spangler mentioned they have a mobile app named The Virginia History Trail, and they will be launching a new website on September 19th as well. She thanked Ann Bane, and her team, for help and consultation with Hampton City Schools in putting together their educational programs.

Rules of Engagement:

Claude Vann stated the group needs to re-establish the rules of engagement and Jonathan McBride provided the 2019 Commemorative Commission Guidelines (copy on file). Jimmy Gray reviewed the information with the commissioners and asked for feedback/discussion.

ACTION: There was a consensus by the commissioners to accept the guidelines as presented.

Review and Approval of Minutes – August:

Claude Vann stated the minutes from August were provided for review and asked if there were any changes. The following changes were requested:

1. Around the Table (Page 3) – Colita Fairfax would like to add, *'will be completed soon'* to the end of the sentence *'stated the official PSA to notify the public of our intentions for next year'*.
2. ACTION (Page 1) – Bill Wiggins requested the item of issue be made clear, *that we would have not formally voted upon or approved our participation in the Making of America Tour.*
3. Co-Chairs Report (Page1) – Ann Bane stated *Ms. Deets name should be changed to Dietz.*

ACTION: Claude Vann called for a motion to approve the minutes with modifications. Glenn Oder made a motion and Raymond Tripp seconded. A vote was taken and motion passed.

Co-Chairs Report:

Claude Vann stated the Tucker Cemetery event was successful and the Governor was very pleased with the event. He reported on the 1619 film at the American Theater and the Project 1619 African Landing Day event at Fort Monroe. Colita Fairfax recognized Vanessa Thaxton-Ward for her efforts with the Association of African American Museum Conference; she heard great things about the conference. Vanessa Thaxton-Ward shared that 380 guest attended the conference and she thanked the commissioners for helping to make it a success. Claude Vann stated he had an opportunity to talk to some of the writers hosted during the previous month's press tours and they were not aware of all the things that have happened in Hampton. He shared an article about 1619, 'Jamestown reckons with slavery' (copy of file).

Colita Fairfax stated she spoke with Donna Parker, from Genesis Advance Performing Arts Society, and they are planning several events next year, one being a play at The American Theatre on Friday, August 23, 2019 called 'The Journey'. She stated Ms. Parker also inquired about accessing Fort Monroe on that Saturday, which was not available. Colita Fairfax explained to her the work of 2019 Commemorative Commission. Bill Wiggins stated he has spoken with them several months ago, explained the process and they are aware. Colita Fairfax clarified that Ms. Parker was familiar with 1619, but not 2019 Commission. She stated there may be a way to meet in the middle, in the spirit of togetherness. She stated no formal request was made by the group. Luci Cochran suggested a possible portal so as the group is part of our 'menu' to promote their performance; this would allow the Commission to vet various groups. After further discussion, Steven Bond suggested the Executive Committee discuss and come up with a process. Claude Vann suggested a written proposal should be given just as with the 1619 committee. Colita Fairfax stated she wanted to bring the information to the group, and if there is any formal request, she will bring the information back to the commission.

ACTION: Bill Wiggins made a motion to accept the information presented by Dr. Fairfax and other individuals and should we be contacted directly that we consider at that point in time. Claude Vann called for a second; there being none, motion failed. However, there was a general consensus to accept the information presented.

Colita Fairfax provided a Tentative Schedule of Events and reviewed it with the group (copy on file). She asked for any changes/deletions. Luci Cochran mentioned some items that were previously pulled from funding could possibly be reinserted; she will forward the items to Colita Fairfax. Ann Bane mentioned she sent the list to the responsible individuals at the school division to confirm that the dates worked, and will send her the responses. Vanessa Thaxton-Ward stated she has some standard programs/exhibitions that she would like to add and will email the information.

Budget Report: No formal report at this time.

Committee Reports:

Commemoration Committee:

Aaron Firth reported they had a productive meeting, discussing the updated developments relative to the Saturday evening concert, which they will have more to share soon. A potential location would be the Paradise Ocean Club as a venue option. He mentioned they have also been approached by an outside group that may be interested in future events, and if there is anything to bring to the commission, they will do so. He stated they are also working with Brittany Foster on additional ways to assist her in moving forward relative to the commemorative events.

Marketing Committee:

Ryan Downey reported ads promoting African Landing Day ran for 2-3 days. He stated they had a couple of press releases and the 2019 press tour took place in August, with very good feedback. Reps from Obits Travel were in attendance. Mary Fugere stated they had a rack card printed and distributed at The African Landing Day event at Fort Monroe. She stated they have had weekly meetings with the ad agency and their PR team, who are collaborating with the CVB on a media strategy. Mary Fugere reported they have also received story boards on the ad campaign that will run on television, radio and in print.

Education Committee:

Colita Fairfax stated the group corresponded by email.

Glenn Oder suggested there be a formal report on budget at the next meeting. Steven Bond will work with Mary Fugere to provide a report.

Old Business:**Project 1619:**

Glenn Oder gave congrats regarding the Project 1619 event; he heard good feedback about it. Larry Gibson thanked all who supported and attended the event. Bill Wiggins also thanked the Fort Monroe Authority and all for their efforts, and specifically Calvin Pearson for his hard work.

Making of America Tour:

Colita Fairfax reported Brittany Foster made necessary changes and she will forward to the commission. She also mentioned Ms. Parker indicated they have booked rooms at The Crown Plaza in Downtown Hampton.

New Business: No formal report given at this time.Around the Table:

Steven Bond reported on the Cities United Convening, which was held in Knoxville, Tennessee. He spoke with several people who are excited about coming to Hampton in 2019. He stated through his conversations, he was invited to attend the International City and County Managers Association (ICMA) Conference in Baltimore to speak at the National Forum for Black Public Administrators Breakfast. He will talk about the partnership with Cities United, which will give him the opportunity to discuss 2019. He stated the conference went well and he is excited about the progress.

Ann Bane thanked Aaron Firth, Larry Gibson and Vanessa Thaxton-Ward for coming out to Phillips Elementary School to welcome students on the first day of school.

Mary Fugere stated the VML Conference is coming to Hampton for their Annual Conference at the end of September, which is a great opportunity to share the 2019 information and highlight events.

Adjournment:

Claude Vann adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted by Annette Oakley, 9/25/18