

Minutes for Hampton 2019 Commemorative Commission

March 6, 2018 – 4:00 p.m. at Hampton History Museum

*Attending:* Ann Bane, Steve Bond, Terry E. Brown, Luci Cochran, Terri Crickenberger, Billie Einselen, Colita Fairfax, Mary Fugere, Larry Gibson, Artisia Green, Simeon Green, Hugh Harrell, Guest-Susan Lineberry, Jonathan McBride, Will Moffett, Synetheia Newby, Glenn Oder, Raymond Tripp, Claude Vann, William Wiggins, Audrey Williams

*Excused Absence:* Jimmy Cerracchio, Aaron Firth, Jimmy Gray, William Harper, Rob Shuford

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Lt. Col. Claude Vann. There was a moment of silence for Paige Washington, former City Councilman, who passed away last week. Roll call was completed. Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes for February 6, 2018. Motion carried.

*Co-Chairs' Report:*

Dr. Colita Fairfax shared the Association of African American Museums is coming to Hampton on August 8-11, 2018. Claude Vann, Glenn Oder, Terry E. Brown and Colita Fairfax are participating on a panel to talk about 2019.

Cassandra Newby-Alexander wants the commission to spearhead the *Making of America* conference on Saturday in 2019. She would like a tour of Fort Monroe and Tucker cemetery. Conference dates are September 26, 27 and 28, 2019. The Commission was asked if they would approve involvement at this conference. This would be a hands-on leadership event for us and there would not be any money involved. It was felt we definitely should be involved for the portion of the conference that is in Hampton. Discussion followed. A motion was made to have the Commission involved and to encourage the co-chairs to investigate more of what our involvement would be for the Saturday portion of the conference. Motion seconded and motion carried.

Mary Fugere said transportation would be coordinated by the HCVB Group Services person. HCVB purchased a shuttle and it will be available for this purpose.

Claude Vann shared that the fourth grade winners of the Art Contest will be recognized tomorrow at Jones Magnet school. He would like as many Commissioners there as possible. Thank you to Raymond Tripp for providing the prizes. This is a great opportunity to engage with the students. Please be there at 6:15 p.m. Thank you to the judges and Ann Bane. This event will be televised, so the visibility of this Commission is important. Ann Bane shared note cards from the art submissions.

A request for a letter of support was received from the Tucker family for a grant from the Historic Preservation Society. Our co-chairs have sent a letter of support.

"Black Angels over Tuskegee" is a play that will be performed on March 28, 2019. The venue has not been determined yet.

Claude Vann and Colita Fairfax are trying to find more Commissioners to fill some vacancies. Vanessa Thaxton-Ward will be joining the Commission and two faculty from TNCC have completed applications on-line to be on the Commission. They are Dionne Redding and Karen Barnet. The appointments will be announced at the March 28 council meeting.

Claude Vann would like to see a legacy project for this Commission, going forward and possibly have these items at the Fort Monroe Visitor Center. Details have not been worked out yet.

Claude Vann shared information from the teleconference yesterday by the State Commission. Some of the highlights were a Library of Congress event, a visit to the Angola Ambassador in Washington, D.C. and Virginia Trails.

#### *Commemoration Committee*

Dr. William Wiggins shared they are still finalizing plans. Mayor Tuck will probably speak and there will be living history tours. There will be a dedication ceremony for the Fort Monroe Visitor Center with a soft opening on Friday night for VIPS and partners. On Saturday, August 24, 2019, there will be an opening ceremony from 10-11 a.m. He shared that an 1840's building foundation was discovered in this parking lot and outbuildings were discovered where the new addition will go. This has altered the schedule a bit, but construction will start in early June.

Steve Bond shared that we will let the youth tell us what they are interested in and let the youth have ownership. Discussion followed. Syntheia Newby and Jonathon McBride will find a date when the youth group and 2019 Commission can meet together. We would like to have representatives from this Commission attend this particular meeting.

#### *Marketing & Outreach Committee:*

An ad has been placed in *Pathfinders Travel Magazine* for April, May and June. They have purchased an ad in the 2018 Hampton Jazz Festival program. They are in the process of counting poles for the pole banners. Terry Brown and Glenn Oder will let Mary know if they would like banner poles at Fort Monroe. Mary Fugere has had interviews for the Event Planner position. The website and social media are being updated.

Colita Fairfax shared she listens to *Soul Street Radio Show* on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at 88.1 FM. Mary Fugere will reach out to the radio station for ads. She shared we may want to apply for a VTC Marketing Leverage Grant.

#### *Education & Awareness Committee:*

Colita Fairfax, Ann Bane and Claude Vann visited the Hilton Garden Inn to see about having the K-12 Teacher Training Institute at that hotel.

They are proposing films for next year with plans to show tier top (narrative of slavery) before each film. Discussion followed on the film budget. It was suggested to just show three films next year to save on the budget. "Bigger than Africa" is one of the suggested films. Please let the co-chairs know if you may have any film suggestions.

*Budget Committee:*

Steve Bond shared he is working on the spreadsheet to get it finalized. When completed, he will share with the Commission. Colita Fairfax encourages the Commission to read the draft so that we stay current.

Steve Bond will submit the budget that we have agreed upon to the City Manager. He is concerned that City Council may have questions. We need to start working with Procurement to give them a head's up. Colita Fairfax said we need an articulation of the youth event in the budget.

*Old Business:*

Project GAIN will be in town on Saturday, March 17 at 8 a.m. at the Hampton Community Center. Permission granted from the Commission to send the email out to the Commissioners regarding the event on March 17. This would be a great children's project and would be great for teenagers, 13 and 14 year olds.

*New Business:*

Glenn Oder would like this Commission to each have a copy of the 2019 report that Kathy Spangler sent to the General Assembly. He suggested having Kathy Spangler give this Commission a presentation. We could get her to come to this meeting before the grant request deadline.

Claude Vann asked the Commission how they feel about meeting on the first Tuesday of each month and would the second Tuesday work better? Several said it worked for them. Claude Vann will keep us posted on a possible date change. Claude Vann, Steve Bond and Colita Fairfax will discuss this and it was suggested that we need to survey everyone electronically.

Synetheia Newby is leaving the city to pursue other activities. Her last day is May 11.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

*Submitted by Terri Crickenberger  
3/15/18*