



Fairfax County 250th Commission
June 29, 1-3 pm
Visit Fairfax Office,
10560 Arrowhead Drive, Suite 350, Fairfax

Approved Minutes

Attendance:

Christopher Barbuschak	Virginia Room, Fairfax County Library	Present
Anne M. Barnes	Mount Vernon District	Absent
Joyce Gray Bellamy	Providence District	Absent
Elliot B. Bell-Krasner	Human Rights Commission	Present
Matt Briney	GW Mount Vernon	Present
Gretchen Bulova	History Commission	Present
The Honorable Michael R. Frey	Sully District	Absent
Donald Hakenson	Lee District	Absent
Carole L. Herrick	History Commission	Present
Patrick Lennon	Visit Fairfax	Present
Elizabeth Maurer	National Museum of the US Army	Present
Subhi A. Mehdi	Dranesville District	Present
Suzanne Moffit	Hunter Mill District	Present
Beverly A. Schlotterbeck	Mason District	Present
Nancy Simmons	Braddock District	Absent
Scott Stroh	Gunston Hall	Present
Paul Kohlenberger	Springfield District	Present
Keri Kline (alt for Brent Feito)	The Army Historical Foundation	Absent

Staff present:

Denice Dressel, Heritage Resources, DPD
Megan Riley, Heritage Resources, DPD

Welcome and Introductions

Chair opened the meeting and went over the agenda

Approval March 3, 2022, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Patrick Lennon to approve the March 3, 2022, 250th Commission meeting minutes:

I move that the 250th Commission approve the March 3, 2022, meeting minutes.

The motion was seconded by Elliot Bell-Krasner and unanimously approved.

Old Business – Administrative Items

Bylaws

The Chair led a discussion of the draft bylaws, explaining that the Commission will adopt the bylaws which must then be approved by the BOS. The Commission discussed and agreed to amend Article IV, Officers and Their Duties, subsection Elections, to include the election all officers biannually at the September meeting with a slate of candidates nominated one month prior to the election meeting. The Commission also discussed and agreed to amend Article VI – Attendance and Participation, to include the clarification that absences causing possible removal of a member be unexcused, at the Chair’s discretion.

A recommendation was made for a slate of officers to be raised and nominated at the August meeting by emailing the Chair with nominations.

A motion was made by Paul Kohlenberger to approve the Bylaws as presented and amended during the meeting:

I move that the 250th Commission approve the Bylaws as presented and amended as discussed.

The motion was seconded by Beverly A. Schlotterbeck and unanimously approved.

Remote [Participation] Meetings Policy

The Chair led a discussion of the draft remote policy. It was clarified that the policy is for members to participate remotely rather than remote participation by the public. A quorum of the Commission must be assembled physically. Members wishing to participate remotely must notify the Chair that they are unable to physically attend on or before the day of the meeting. Members may participate remotely up to 25% per calendar year.

A motion was made by Elliot Bell-Krasner to approve the Remote [Participation] Meetings Policy as presented:

I move that the 250th Commission approve the Remote [Participation] Meetings Policy as presented.

The motion was seconded by Carole Herrick and unanimously approved.

Meeting Schedule:

Proposed meeting Dates for the next 12 Months, May 2022 – May 2023 – 4th Wednesday of the month except where noted, 1:00-2:30

- August 3, 2022 (Chair conflict in July)
- September 28, 2022
- November 16, 2022 (to accommodate Thanksgiving Holiday)
- January 25, 2023
- March 22, 2023
- May 24, 2023

New Business

Workgroup Recommendations, Next Steps, & Subsequent Action Items

The Chair went over the outline of the workgroup recommendations to the Board. The Commission is to:

- Have a business plan and budget
- Survey of county residents
- Committee structure – Committees may include non-commission members
- Have some funding/looking for more

***Americans, Our History, and the 250th* Presentation and Strategic Discussion**

The Chair presented a summary of the findings from the study, *Americans, Our History, and the 250th*. The study originated from the Commonwealth's 250th Commission which commissioned the study to learn about what the public is thinking about the 250th. A consultant was hired to conduct a study of the attitudes of museum goers vs. broader population to the upcoming 250th anniversary.

The study identified 2 groups of museum goers: "Traditionals" and "Neoterics" which hold different ideas of patriotism. The Traditionals founding ideals cluster around concepts the of liberty, courage, American Dream, exceptionalism, and opportunity, where the Neoterics founding ideals cluster around equality, diversity and tolerance.

Many Americans will celebrate regardless (the traditionalists), but in order for others (the neoteric) to participate, they would need to see efforts made towards inclusion and diversity and thoughtful exhibitions/activities instead of just a party. The goal will be to create a good mix of different events to reach the largest amount of people possible; great opportunity for growth in numbers amongst the neoteric group if engaged and taken care of.

Messaging takeaways:

- Commemoration
- Exploration of Freedom
- Know your history
- All Americans
- Inclusive

Commission Discussion

The Commissioners expressed their thoughts and opinions on the information that was presented from the study, which included:

- The County has positioned itself to be neoteric – try to be inclusive of Traditionals messaging will be important
- Be prepared for pushback and to see/hear/push past negative comments about programming, particularly those about inclusion.

- Find what unites people; civics, leadership, and throwing a big party.
- Ensure-family friendliness at a reasonable proportion providing opportunities for education
- Ensure that at least some of the activities are accessible to people who are unable to attend the majority of events due to socioeconomic status or who work certain jobs such as providing virtual events/programs
- Encourage activities being brought to various communities in the county, including those of lower socioeconomic status to ensure equity and inclusivity
- Learn lessons from other large alike celebrations in the past
- Be invitational, open, and honest towards the public throughout the planning process, especially through comments made in person and on social media
- Work with as many partners as possible to bring the activities to the people and provide a variety of programming. Amplifying what is going on in everyone's groups.

The Chair noted that NOVA Parks hosting an informational meeting 12:00 tomorrow over Zoom for local historical organizations.

Adjourn