

Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

Location: Frederick Douglass Elementary School Library

APPROVED

MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Committee Members: Charles Avery, Erica Bush, Dwight Brooks, Gladys Burke, Valerie Bush, Tammy Carter, Carlotta Coates, Gertrude Evans, James Roberts, Larry Roeder, Larry Simms, Sylvia Smith

Absent: Glory Howard, Joyce Jackson, Mary Randolph, Michelle Thomas

Guests: Charlotte Coates, Alvin Dodson, Janet Wiggins, Helen Avery, Jaxon Roberts

LCPS Staff: Melissa Tello, Kathleen Devens, Sara Howard-O'Brien, Donna Torraca

Charles Avery welcomed the Committee and guests. Jackson Roberts, grandson of Committee Member Jim Roberts, introduced himself and stated that he will be 62 when the time capsule is opened.

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the March 28, 2022 meeting. There was discussion regarding the correct spelling of Mr. Daniel(s) which had been researched by some Committee members after the March 28th meeting to determine the correct spelling. While the Committee voted at the March 28th meeting to name the shop/band building the Knox-Daniels building, it should actually be Daniel without the "s". Carlotta Coates made a motion to approve the minutes and Gert Evans seconded.

Note: Further discussion and decision regarding the name of the building is provided later in these minutes.

Construction Update:

Melissa Tello provided a construction update since the March 28th meeting. She shared that site work is progressing and the amphitheater is taking shape. The monument sign footings will be poured in May and the roof replacement work will begin. Investigation of the time capsule was delayed due to weather but is scheduled for the first week in May for both the interior behind the cornerstone and the front plaza area. Interior framing in the 1950's and 1960's section continues as well as restoration in the front 1941 rooms. Photos were shared of the amphitheater and interior areas.

Melissa provided samples of potential maroon stage curtains for the committee to consider. Roll Call was taken later in the meeting regarding the curtains and the plum color was Approved 9-0, with Valerie Bush and Carlotta Coates abstaining and Gladys Burke, Glory Howard, Joyce Jackson and Mary Randolph absent for the vote.

Information regarding interior storm windows was provided to the Committee. These storm windows are being installed to improve energy efficiency and provide security. The restoration is following the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Preservation and will all visibility of the original wood window profile and is the best preservation option.

Melissa provided additional information for items that the Subcommittees had requested in order to make recommendations to the full Committee. Those items, by Subcommittee were as follows:

Mural Subcommittee: After further review of the gym, acoustics in this area, and desire by the Committee for graphic panels, BBB recommends a maximum of 6 large graphic panels, 2 above the bleachers and 2 at each end of the court walls. The panels, which are 12-feet long and 8-feet high, could have either photos or logos.

Paver & Quote Subcommittee: Samples of the paver size and what words and/or quotes would look like were provided for the Committee review prior to the meeting. All pavers on site are made of granite and are 6-feet 9-inches long and 2-feet high. Example font sizes ranged in size with letters 6-inches, 3-1/2-inches and 2-1/2-inches tall, the largest being used for single words and the smallest for a medium length quote. Text size can vary dependent upon content.

LCPS Design Team recommends that of the 15 pavers available in the front plaza available, 5 pavers between the statue location and front door be used for the individual words and 3 pavers between the statue and sidewalk be used for quotes or to acknowledge teachers or groups. The Heritage Walk provides an additional 5 pavers for quotes and acknowledgements. Members asked if the direction of the pavers could be changed, if they needed to be the same size, and if those not engraved could be removed. The team can change the direction and a layout would need to be done to see what that would look like but that would change the pattern of the area. Pavers are provided to break up the amount of brick in these two areas and it is not recommended to remove any pavers for aesthetics. The Committee asked that examples of similar work done in other projects be provided at the next meeting.

There are approximately 16 pavers in the East Courtyard, across from the amphitheater. Six of those pavers are recommended for engraving.

There are approximately 15 pavers in the West Courtyard adjacent to the shop/band building. Seven are recommended for engraving. Mr. Roberts suggested that these pavers should be quotes from teachers.

Kiosk/Computer Screen Subcommittee: Five options were discussed regarding restoration of the tack board and location of the \$1 bill and Frederick Douglass bust on pedestal for consideration by the Subcommittee. A picture of the existing trophy case (to be removed) in the 1941 area along with photos of all awards retrieved from the school were provided. The tallest trophy appears to be approximately 30". Options were provided for location of the trophy's and other awards including, classroom display cases, wall behind the stage, and shop/band building, in addition to display cases already depicted in the front room. Display cases different from those depicted in the front room and back stage wall could be provided. It was also noted that the design of the classroom display cases would not allow good visibility. There were questions regarding the potential for a model of the building in a display case and blueprints of original building. Bust examples will be provided at the next meeting.

Amphitheater and Outdoor Seating: Seating options and trash receptacle options were provided. LCPS is looking for feedback on the style the Committee would like to see, i.e. traditional or more modern. There was discussion regarding double sided benches and the spaces that could accommodate. The use of backless benches was reviewed, particularly in the center of the plaza area to preserve the views. Staff noted that it would be best if the furniture could have a consistent similar finish. Some of the options considered are recycled plastic as opposed to wood which is less durable. Picnic tables will also be provided in some grass areas and at the pavilion.

Time Capsule Subcommittee: Two options were shown for the location of the time capsule, one underneath the stage with a plaque of the location in the center of the front bead board panel and the other under the center court.

Playground Update:

Sara Howard-O'Brien stated that there was no news to report regarding the playground since the March 28th Committee meeting. The Parks & Recreation consultants are working on panel mock-ups.

Responsibility of Stakeholder Groups:

The three stakeholder groups met on April 7th. They requested that their group be created as a Committee and called Douglass Commemorative Consortium. All three groups agreed to:

- Meet once a month,
- Act as a commemorative arts committee for events and objects to be displayed
- Manage scheduling of tours, ensuring they are staffed and that there is a script regarding the organizations and the displays in the building; and
- Advise LCPS on the Re-dedication Ceremony including suggested invitees

Roll call was taken to adopt the name of the stakeholder groups Douglass Commemorative Consortium and was Approved 11-0 with Gladys Burke, Glory Howard, Joyce Jackson, Mary Randolph and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mural Subcommittee: Larry Roeder, Larry Simms, Joyce Jackson

Larry Simms reported that the Subcommittee had met. They are recommending a mural at the outdoor basketball court (on the back wall of the building) with well known sports figures that contributed to civil rights as well as sports such as Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens, Arthur Ashe, Althea Gibson, Jim Brown, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Serena and Venus Williams. There was a suggestion by Larry Roeder to have murals of the two teachers that "lead up to Douglass", John Walker and Edith Harris. Discussion included their importance, the timeline to be covered, and that this information could potentially be placed on the kiosks. Inside the gym they are supportive of 6 panels to hold logos and graphic photos with the green and gold color pattern dispersed in the room. A suggestion was made by Tammy Carter to have the school sweatshirt behind plexiglass in the gym. In the shop building they are supportive of the location of the graphic photo on the wall and would like to see another mural or photo of Mr. Hankerson

on a side wall. After further discussion the Committee asked if LCPS could provide the amount of space in between the windows as a potential space for this mural.

Roll call was taken for the following items and all passed 11-0, with Gladys Burke, Glory Howard, Joyce Jackson, Mary Randolph and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote:

- Mural at Basketball Court
- Green and Yellow Color Panels inside Gym
- 6 Acoustic panels for logos and photos
- Photo on back wall of Shop/Band Building (wall closest to Market Street)

Pavers and Quotes Subcommittee: Carlotta Coates and Gert Evans

Carlotta provided an overview of the Subcommittees recommendations. After review of key groups to acknowledge and various quotes inside the building Roll Call was taken on the items below. All recommendations passed 11-0 with Gladys Burke, Glory Howard, Joyce Jackson, Mary Randolph and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote:

- Front Plaza pavers to acknowledge groups (not individuals) as follows:
 - bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians, guidance counselors, librarians, principals, secretaries, teachers, and veterans. (Veterans were added as there were students who left to serve in the war and then returned to finish their degree)
- Quotes from teachers in pavers on the shop side of the building
- Quote over door inside Main Room:
 - *“A smile or a tear has no nationality; joy and sorrow speak alike to all nations, and they above all the confusion of tongues, proclaim the brotherhood of man.”*
Frederick Douglass
- Quotes on 1960 Gym Wall (location to be determined)
 - *“If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it – then I can achieve it”.*
Muhammad Ali
 - *“You have to be able to accept failure to get better”* LeBron James
 - *“The only person who can stop you from reaching your goals is you.”* Jackie Joyner-Kersey
 - *“The only discipline that lasts is self-discipline.”* Bum Phillips
- Quotes on Room Name Panels in 1941 portion. Specific room to be determined:
 - *“Live full and die empty”* Les Brown
 - *“A smile is a cure that sets everything straight”* Phyllis Diller
 - *“Achievement has no color”* Abraham Lincoln
 - *“Reading is Fundamental”* Margaret McNamara (Library)
 - *“Peace begins with a smile”* Mother Teresa
 - *“Think. Think. Think.”* Winnie the Pooh
- Benches with dedication plaque for each of the 4 Principals at the school

Kiosk and Computer Screen Subcommittee: Carlotta Coates and Valerie Bush

Due to the hour, this committee will present in full at the May 9th meeting. One item was discussed, renaming of the shop/band building. At the March 28, 2022 meeting the Subcommittee proposed and the full Committee voted to name the building the Knox-Daniels

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building. The Subcommittee would like to ask for a new name and vote to include Mr. Hankerson and proposed naming the building the Daniel-Hankerson-Knox Building, listing them alphabetically.

Erica Bush made a motion to rename the building the Daniel-Hankerson-Knox Building and Larry Simms seconded. Roll Call was taken, and the motion was approved 11-0 with Glory Howard, Joyce Jackson, Larry Roeder, Larry Simms, and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

New Sculpture Subcommittee -

Tammy Carter and Larry Roeder volunteered to sit on the new Sculpture Subcommittee.

Closing: Erica and Charles thanked everyone for their time and reminded them that the next meeting is May 9th.

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