

Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

Location: Frederick Douglass Elementary School Library

MEETING MINUTES

August 22, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED

ATTENDEES:

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

Absent: Michelle Thomas

Guests: Margaret Good, Alvin Dodson, Janet Wiggins, Helen Avery

LCPS Staff: Lottie Spurlock, Donna Torraca, Sara Howard-O'Brien, Laura Cruz

Erica Bush and Charles Avery welcomed the Committee and guests to the meeting, including former Committee member Margaret Good.

The Committee members gathered in the front hall of Frederick Douglass Elementary School where a group photo was taken for the time capsule along with pictures of each Subcommittee and the Co-Chairs.

Public Comment:

Returning to the library, public comment was offered with three items discussed:

- Larry Roeder shared the Edwin Washington Project (EWP) was seeking assistance from the Committee and the Alumni for a digital map they are compiling of the bus routes students took prior to integration to any of the schools in Loudoun County. Information needed includes, location of bus routes, length of trip, bus ride stories, names of bus drivers and potentially interviews with them and any other bus transportation the community can offer. Mr. Roeder shared that there is a group that is looking at the EWP as a model for a national map that would reflect similar information. Larry Roeder will send an email to the Committee members outlining this information and appreciates the Committee's assistance in this endeavor.
- Donna Torraca explained the reason for the packet of various photos included in the August 22nd packet. The Thomas Balch Library is seeking assistance identifying people in these photos they have located recently from various Loudoun Times Mirror news articles. Any information regarding same can be provided to Donna Torraca or Sara Howard-O'Brien.
- Larry Simms provided an idea for a commemorative coin that would be distributed to all those who assisted with the commemorative project including Committee members, guests, researchers, oral history participants and anyone else the Committee would like. One side of the coin would have artwork provided from Gert Evans of the front of Douglass High School along with the dates of 1941-1968 and the other side a Ram. After the discussion Mr. Simms offered to bring back various concepts for review at the September 26th meeting. Tammy Carter noted that she had also previously sent ideas for commemoration.

Review of Meeting Minutes:

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the August 8, 2022, meeting. Larry Roeder suggested that the 2nd to last paragraph on Page 2 should reflect Larry Simms in the second line as a clarification. The group agreed to remove the sentence in the first paragraph on Page 3 regarding a motion to accept photo recommendations. Valerie Bush made a motion to approve. Tammy Carter seconded. All present voted in favor.

Douglass Commemorative Consortium:

Carlotta Coates stated that all three groups continue to work with Kevin Lewis and LCPS on the MOUs.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Sculpture Subcommittee: Tammy Carter, Larry Roeder, and Larry Simms

Two artists, selected from the group of eight original submissions, were asked to revise various components of their proposals for the full Committee review that evening. Larry Roeder reviewed the PowerPoint slides reflecting the two artists original and revised submissions. After review of the PowerPoint and videos offered by the artists, Tammy Carter discussed with the Committee the concepts of the two submissions. After several questions from the Committee discussing surface type, angle, features and whether both sculptures were possible a vote was taken. Each Committee member was asked to indicate which artist they would prefer. Roll Call was taken with 10 votes for Jeff Hall, 2 votes for Zachary Oxman and 3 members abstaining from the vote (Valerie Bush, Tammy Carter and Glory Howard). Michelle Thomas was absent for the vote.

NEW Subcommittee- Thomas Balch Library Display:

Sara Howard-O'Brien shared with the Committee that over a year ago Thomas Balch Library (Library) had approached LCPS and the Committee to provide a display at the Library regarding Douglass High School for the month of November, 2022. Gert Evans, Larry Roeder, Jim Roberts, Dwight Brooks and Larry Simms volunteered to prepare the exhibit.

Oral History Project: Larry Simms

Larry Simms noted that for those individuals suggested for the oral history project but that the Subcommittee was unable to schedule and interview, letters have been mailed requesting their written comments and providing topics for consideration. A copy of the list of recipients, letter and questionnaire are provided in the packet. The Subcommittee has asked for written comments by October 1, 2022.

Kiosk/Computer Screen Subcommittee: Carlotta Coates, Valerie Bush and Tammy Carter

Sara Howard-O'Brien provided an update to the Committee regarding discussions with LCPS DIT regarding project needs and management of both the kiosk information and the information in the digital display screen as a part of the timeline. Sara asked the Committee to think about the following for discussion at the September 26th meeting:

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- What Information you want to share?
- How you want to link/manipulate that information?
- Are the kiosks interactive?
- What examples have you seen that you like?

If you can't think of any, plan a trip to a museum and look around! There are programs that can be accessed from anywhere. If there are alumni located anywhere that have internet access, they could view the information in the program.

In next steps the LCPS DIT team will attend a Committee meeting to listen to your ideas, share examples of LCPS programs that currently exist and might be used in the display, discuss what LCPS can do in-house and what may need an outside consultant.

Schedule:

Erica provided an update to the Committee regarding the upcoming meeting schedule. To provide the design team adequate time to review and create samples for the Committee to review, the meeting for September 12th has been cancelled. The next meeting will be September 26th.

As a reminder, the two October meetings will both be on Tuesdays due to October holidays.

Review of Additional Packet Items:

Erica reviewed additional items provided in the packet which included Emancipation Day information at the Carver Center on September 17th, the Board of Supervisors and Edwin Washington Society information for the time capsule, and a copy of the gym wall panels that were discussed at the last meeting but not provided in that packet.

Reminder: Time Capsule items are due to LCPS by August 31st. They can be emailed, mailed or delivered to Sara and Donna.

Closing: Charles and Erica thanked everyone for their time and reminded them that the next meeting is September 26, 2022.

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