

# Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

Location: Frederick Douglass Elementary School Library

## MEETING MINUTES

August 8, 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, Joyce Jackson, Mary Randolph, James Roberts, Larry Roeder, Larry Simms, Sylvia Smith

**Absent:** Glory Howard, Michelle Thomas

**Guests:** Charlotte Coates, Janet Wiggins, Helen Avery

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

Erica Bush and Charles Avery welcomed the Committee and guests to the meeting.

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the July 25, 2022, meeting. Janet Wiggins offered that on Page 4 of the minutes under the Tobler Memorial the word "though" should be "thought". There being no other changes to the minutes, Erica Bush made a motion to approve. Valerie Bush seconded. All present voted in favor.

### Playground Update:

Sara Howard-O'Brien shared with the Committee that the local heroes panel is moving forward with the top three hero suggestions from the Commemorative Committee: Gertrude Alexander, Marie Moton Medley Howard and John Wanzer. The panels will not have actual photos of these individuals but interpretative faces. The panels are being mocked-up now and Loudoun County Parks & Rec may begin installation of the playground in September or October.

### Progress Update/DHS-CC Commemorative Elements:

Melissa Tello shared the construction progress on the property and in the building. Underground utilities have been completed, paving is underway and the amphitheater work continues. Interior restoration in the 1941 portion of the building continues. The 1950's and 1960's portion of the building is progressing with new window installation, drywall, ductwork, painting and plumbing. The same holds true for the band/shop building and the PRCs buildings. Melissa then shared various pictures of the site.

The proposed font style for the wording to be incorporated in various locations throughout the site was presented and discussed. The designer (BBB) has recommended a font that is simple and easy to read (Good Pro Con medium). The Committee reviewed examples and discussed whether the wording would be in upper and lower case, whether quotes would be in italics, whether the proposed font would be "too plain". Melissa noted that the presentation would follow what one would typically see in a museum where there would be a mix of upper and lower case and varied emphasis depending on the particular wording (titles, quotes, etc.). Overall, the Committee agreed that the font should be simple and easy to read. LCPS Construction staff will proceed with the two key time sensitive components, the pavers and outside timeline.

At the July 25, 2022, meeting the Final Commemorative Report was reviewed. This Report will be expanded with appendices as components move through design and ultimate implementation to track all of the Committee's decisions. Melissa asked if there were any additional comments on the Commemorative Report. No additional comments were offered and some Committee members noted that it looked good to them and represented the decisions the Committee has made.

At the end of the meeting the Committee did inquire about the opening of the campus. Melissa shared that the projected completion date at this time is Thanksgiving, with furniture being delivered in December and departments moving into the building in January 2023. It is anticipated that there would be an LCPS opening for the new departments with a separate celebration opening as the commemorative elements are in place.

**Douglass Commemorative Consortium:**

No update available.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Reconciliation Subcommittee:**

Erica Bush noted that the Subcommittee will be meeting virtually on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Mural Subcommittee:** Larry Simms, Larry Roeder, and Joyce Jackson

Larry Simms shared that the Mural Call For Artist is currently out for request of submissions with a deadline of September 2, 2022. He then shared various photos the Subcommittee recommends for the four acoustical panels in the 1960 gym which would have:

Two Boys Basketball (1967-1968 and 1960-1961 School Year)

Two Girls Basketball (1966-1967 and 1949-1950 School Year)

Two Football (1958-1959 and 1965-1966 School Year)

One Cheerleading (1964-1965 School Year)

One Golf (1958-1959 School Year)

One Baseball (1958-1959 School Year)

One Track (1961-1962 School Year)

Because of the size of the acoustical panels it is hoped that more than one photo can be placed on a panel. Larry Simms shared the specific photos in mind for the panels with the understanding that these would then be given to the design team for their expertise in placement, if the Committee was in agreement with the selection.

Mr. Roberts shared that the first football team in 1952-1953 only had six players on the field. The Committee discussed the lack of a girls' basketball team picture for the 1967-1968 school year. Joyce Jackson shared that, at some point, the girls' sports changed to intramural sports between each other rather than competing with other schools. The question was asked whether the names of the athletes would be placed on the panels and it was stated that they would not be.

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Larry Simms asked if generally everyone would be happy with any combination of these pictures on the four panels. Roll Call was taken and the Motion passed 14-0 with Glory Howard and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

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

Donna Torraca provided an overview of the sculpture submissions received from the Call For Artist. Eight submissions were received in total. Copies of all submissions were provided in the packet.

Artists included:

Tome Ben-Gal from Washington, DC,  
James Dinh from Cerritos, CA  
Gabaldon from Wittman, AZ  
Jon Hair from Fleming Island, FL  
Jeff Hall, Lovettsville, VA  
Humanity Memorial Team from Sutton, West Virginia  
Olivia Kim, Rochester, NY  
Zachary Oxman, Rockville, MD

Tammy Carter reported that the Subcommittee met on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and reviewed all submissions. After discussion and careful review of all, they are recommending two submissions to the full Committee for review and further discussion. Both Tammy and Larry Roeder explained why artists Jeff Hall and Zachary Oxman were chosen by the Subcommittee as finalists along with suggested modifications. It was a difficult decision as all the artists are talented and provided a variety of options for the front plaza sculpture.

Upon review of all submissions and discussion of the recommended artists and changes, Larry Roeder made a motion to adopt the draft Motion located in the meeting packet with minor modifications and Larry Simms seconded. A list of the motion and recommended changes is attached to these minutes. Roll Call was taken and the Committee voted 14-2 with Glory Howard and Michelle Thomas absent to move forward with Jeff Hall and Zachary Oxman and to bring the submissions back to the full Committee on Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, for a final vote. LCPS will reach out to the two selected artists and notify them of the requested changes.

**Time Capsule Subcommittee:** Valerie Bush, Larry Roeder, Jim Roberts

The Committee was reminded that submissions for the time capsule are due to LCPS by August 31<sup>st</sup>. Copies can be delivered at the August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting or, if later, to the LCPS offices at 960 Sycolin Road, Suite 110, Leesburg, VA 20175.

**Kiosk/Computer Screen Subcommittee:** Carlotta Coates, Valerie Bush and Tammy Carter  
Carlotta Coates inquired of the status for the programming of the kiosk and assistance with uploading information into the system. Sara Howard-O'Brien updated the Committee that LCPS was in the process of looking at various options and we will provide any updates at the next meeting.

**Review of Additional Packet Items:**

Erica reviewed additional items in the Committee packet which included the final Paver & Quote Recommendations, a copy of letters for the time capsule from the Black History Committee and the Loudoun Preservation Society along with an updated bio information request form for individual

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Committee members letters for the time capsule, and information for American Prophet, Frederick Douglass in His Own Words which is playing at Arena Stage until August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Erica also shared that a photographer would be at the next meeting to take a group photo of the Commemorative Committee and the Subcommittees.

**Closing:** Charles and Erica thanked everyone for their time and reminded them that the next meeting is August 22nd.

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