

Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

Location: Frederick Douglass Elementary School Library

MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2022

APPROVED

ATTENDEES:

Committee Members: Charles Avery, Erica Bush, Gladys Burke, Valerie Bush, Tammy Carter, Carlotta Coates, Glory Howard, Mary Randolph, James Roberts, Larry Roeder, Sylvia Smith

Absent: Dwight Brooks, Gertrude Evans, Joyce Jackson, Larry Simms, Michelle Thomas

Guests: Alvin Dodson, Janet Wiggins, Helen Avery, Charlotte Coates, Sean Johnson

LCPS Staff: Donna Torraca, Sara Howard-O'Brien

Erica Bush and Charles Avery welcomed the Committee and guests to the meeting. No public comment was offered.

Review of Meeting Minutes:

The Committee reviewed the August 22nd and September 26th meeting minutes. Carlotta Coates offered one change on the August 22nd minutes, page 1, last paragraph, 3rd line from bottom to say "After the discussion" rather than "After discussion the". Seeing no other suggested changes Erica Bush made a motion to approve the August 22, 2022, minutes as amended and the September 26, 2022, minutes. Valerie Bush seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Playground Update:

Sara Howard-O'Brien shared the "Local Loudoun County Heroes" draft panel from Loudoun County Parks & Recreation for the Committee's review and comment. Several suggestions were recommended for the panel by the Committee. Sara thanked the Committee for their input and stated she would provide these suggestions to Parks & Recreation for their consideration. Reference Attachment for summary of changes.

Signage and Interpretative Graphics Review:

Monument Sign – Rams Head Material: At the September 26th meeting two options were presented to the Committee but no vote was taken due to questions on the bronze selection and requests for review of the sign with the selected font along with the two options. The Committee also asked:

1. Is Option B flush or attached to the wall?
2. Could a border be provided around Option B for it to "pop" more?
3. Can you make Option B flush?
4. Requested confirmation that this is a double-sided sign with same information on both sides.
5. How many years are projected before fading is anticipated to occur with either option?

A revised Option B was provided at the meeting along with the original Option A from September 26. Sara verified that it will be a double-sided sign as shown in the new slide deck and stated that fading should not be an issue for quite some time, if ever.

The Committee voted 8-3 for Option B with Dwight Brooks, Gert Evans, Joyce Jackson, Larry Simms and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

Freestanding Interpretative Signage – Front Entrance

The Design Team reached out to the artist who had created the original image of Frederick Douglass chosen by the Committee on September 26th. BBB has been unable to contact the artist to secure permission to use this image and suggest that the Committee choose another image for the 100 Pennies Story. Option A showed an image of an elder Douglass and Option B a younger Douglass.

The Committee voted 6-5 for Option A with Dwight Brooks, Gert Evans, Joyce Jackson, Larry Simms and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

1941 Building Lettering: At the September 26th meeting the Committee asked if the years located at the peak of the roof could be larger and inquired whether these were pin letters or painted directly on the building. The Design Team provided an example of the years at a larger size. Two options were proposed for either Option A of painted letters or Option B pin mounted letters.

The Committee voted 11-0 for Option B pin mounted letters with Dwight Brooks, Gert Evans, Joyce Jackson, Larry Simms and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

Tackboard: At the September 26th meeting the Committee asked that the key shown as an option for the front entrance signage be placed under the words “Douglass Directory” on the tack board along with the George Washington Carver Quote “Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom” and the QR code. The Design Team provided an example of the “key” placement in the tack board. The Committee felt it might be too crowded. A vote was taken for Option A to return to the original tack board design or Option B the new proposal with the key placed in the tackboard.

The Committee voted 9-2 for Option A to return to the original layout with Dwight Brooks, Gert Evans, Joyce Jackson, Larry Simms and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

Shop Building Dedication Signage: The Committee requested at the September 26th meeting to have the three names of the teachers the building is dedicated to be listed in one line with either commas or hyphens in between each name. Option A was shown with commas, Option B was shown with hyphens. The Committee also requested that “The” be retained on the signage.

Option A with commas was chosen 8-1 with Dwight Brooks, Gert Evans, Joyce Jackson, Larry Simms and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote and Erica Bush and Mary Randolph abstaining.

W&OD Trail Sign: The Committee questioned at the September 26th meeting what the materials would be utilized for the interpretative sign panel base. A copy with information on the materials for the panel and base were provided.

Douglass Commemorative Consortium

Larry Roeder stated that he had requested specific furniture items for assigned room and inquired as to the status of the furniture order. Sara stated that LCPS was in the process of finalizing the furniture for the rooms and that each room would have a uniform desk and filing cabinet. Sara will check on the status of the furniture order and exact items for each room for the next meeting. Gladys Burke asked if LCPS uses any minority vendors or has requirements to use same. Sara shared that she did not know the answer to that but would inquire.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Amphitheater Subcommittee: Valerie Bush, Jim Roberts

Valerie Bush unveiled the proposed design for the Amphitheater. Three panels will be in the amphitheater due to site availability, rather than the five originally proposed. Pictures for all of the original County-Wide League officers and signers of the Deeds purchasing the land and later conveying to the School Board have been located. There are some additional changes that the Amphitheater Subcommittee would like to see but what is currently shown is close to final. The Committee was pleased with the design and thanked the Subcommittee for all their hard work.

Sculpture Subcommittee: Larry Roeder, Larry Simms and Tammy Carter

Larry Roeder stated that he had spoken with Jeff Hall regarding the potential for a “mini” statue as a souvenir for people to purchase. He asked if there were Committee members interested and asked for a show of hands. Larry stated that he would follow-up with Jeff for pricing and relay that information back to the Committee at a later date.

Reconciliation Subcommittee:

Tammy Carter presented several marketing items and educational display handouts for the Committee to consider. The items included bags with a picture of the Historic Douglass High School which could be used as a “take away” to hold items such as brochures about the various art sites on campus, booklets with the history of the property and photos, information on the property today and the programs and facilities that are available, magnets, business cards, pens, pencils, bookmarks, post cards, note pads and stickers. Tammy suggested a brochure rack in the front room to display these various guides and information. There were questions regarding who would be involved to create these documents and ensure accuracy. How would this proposal be implemented? There was also a question of funding.

Erica Bush asked if it was possible to have a website or webpage that could be linked to other sites to share the history, information, Consortium activities, etc. Sara will check with DDI regarding the possibility.

Charles Avery stated that the Reconciliation Committee has just begun and doesn't fully have its purpose defined at this time. He suggested that perhaps a Sub-Committee could work on some of these ideas or the Consortium Committee would be responsible for items such as these.

The Loudoun County Reconciliation Committee is scheduled to meet for a second time on Wednesday, October 12th. A report will be provided from that meeting at the October 25th Douglass High School Commemorative Committee meeting.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Announcement:

Charles Avery shared that the Co-Chairs were just informed that all three MOU's were accepted and approved by the School Board that evening, with a 9-0 vote.

Visit Loudoun:

Donna shared with the Committee that she recently spoke with Beth Erickson of Visit Loudoun. They are working on Trail Blazing signage and creating a Black History Trail. Sites to date include the Sycolin Cemetery, Union Street School, Oak Grove, and the Dean-Settle cabin, among others. Donna is working with Visit Loudoun to add Douglass High School to the trail when the renovation is complete and commemorative displays installed.

Thomas Balch Library Display Subcommittee: Gert Evans, Larry Roeder, Jim Roberts, Dwight Brooks and Larry Simms

Gert Evans was unable to attend the (October 11, 2022 DHSCC) meeting but provided all the items gathered that could be displayed at Thomas Balch in November, dependent on space. The Committee was asked to view the items before leaving at the end of the meeting and provide any comments to Donna Torraca.

Closing: Charles and Erica thanked everyone for their time and reminded them that the next meeting is Tuesday, October 25, 2022 and time capsule submissions are due and can be emailed, delivered or handed in at the next meeting.

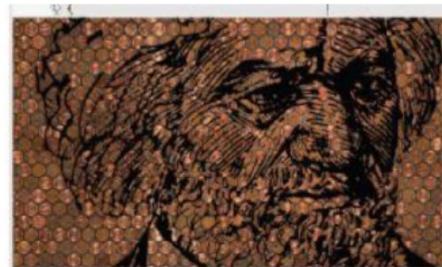
ITEMS APPROVED BY COMMITTEE:

Monument Sign Rams Head Option B:



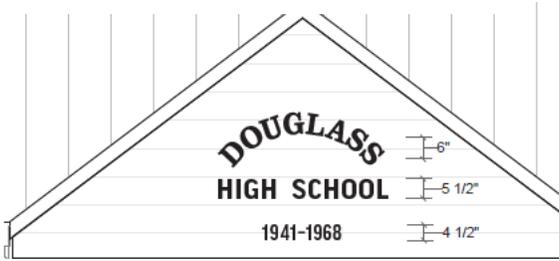
Option A

**Building Entrance Signage
100 Penny Douglass Image –**

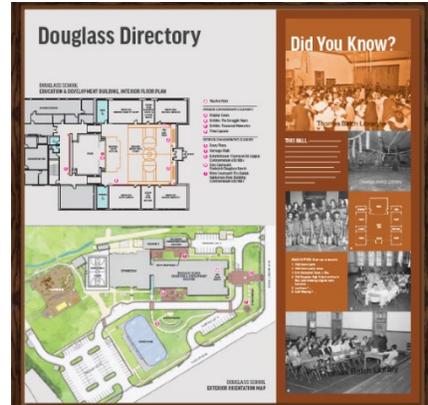


1941 Building Lettering

OPTION B:
1/4"-THK ALUMINUM CUT LETTERS,
PTD MATTE BLACK; PIN-MOUNTED
FLUSH TO FACADE



Douglass Directory Layout



Shop Dedication Signage:



**Douglass High School Commemorative Committee
Playground Panel Comments
October 11, 2022**

General Comments:

1. Suggest different color for lettering and/or background. The white lettering is hard to read.
2. Change the school building to represent the Douglass High School building. This building looks like Loudoun County High School.
3. Remove the “skyscraper” type buildings and replace with farmland or landscape background
4. Change bus to reflect a bus of the era. Larry Roeder, Committee Member, is researching to provide an example.
5. Add QR Code to information that will be available inside the building
6. Change the spelling of Heros in title to Heroes

Paragraph Under Title:

Change the last line of the paragraph to read:

“community until 1968 when Loudoun County Public schools were integrated.

Gertrude Alexander:

In 1938 Gertrude Alexander was hired by Loudoun County Public Schools to supervisor Black teachers. She was instrumental in bringing together all black parent-teacher associations to form the County-Wide League which combined efforts and created a unified voice in the pursuit of a high school and bus transportation for Blacks. She was also instrumental in creating a Voter Registration Club.

Marie Medley Howard:

In 1940 a local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was formed on the advice of attorney, Charles Hamilton Houston, Dean of Law at Howard University to strengthen the efforts in the struggle for equal education. Marie Moton Medley-Howard, a Leesburg beautician, was elected as President. She was outspoken on the topics of education and equal rights, championing improvements to students, teachers and the Black community.

Suggest Moving this Language Back out to the Full Margin (similar to the first paragraph to be distinguished from the three heroes:

You can learn more about the local Black struggle for education by touring the grounds and visiting inside the Historic Douglass High School which stands as a testament to the fortitude of the Black community.