

**Fairfax County 250<sup>th</sup> Commission**  
**February 22, 2023, 1-2:30 pm**  
**Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 2 & 3**  
**12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax**

**Approved Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance**

Christopher Barbuschak	Virginia Room, Fairfax County Library	Present
Joyce Gray Bellamy	Providence District	Present
Elliot B. Bell-Krasner	Human Rights Commission	Present
Matt Briney	GW Mount Vernon	Present
Gretchen Bulova	History Commission	Present
Brent Feito	The Army Historical Foundation	Absent
The Honorable Michael R. Frey	Sully District	Present
Donald Hakenson	Franconia District	Present
Carole L. Herrick	History Commission	Present
Paul Kohlenberger	Springfield District	Remote
Patrick Lennon	Visit Fairfax	Present
Elizabeth Maurer	National Museum of the US Army	Absent
Subhi A. Mehdi	Dranesville District	Remote
Garrett McGuire	At-large, Chairman Appointee	Present
Suzanne Moffitt	Hunter Mill District	Present
Beverly A. Schlotterbeck	Mason District	Present
Nancy Simmons	Braddock District	Present
Scott Stroh	Gunston Hall	Present

**Staff present**

Denice Dressel, Heritage Resources, DPD  
Stephanie Newman, Heritage Resources, DPD  
Camela Speer, Supervisor Storck's office (remote)

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Scott Stroh called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm and acknowledged that a quorum was present. Secretary Nancy Simmons also was present. The members introduced themselves, including two members who were participating remotely. Mr. Kohlenberger participated from McLean and Ms. Mehdi participated from her car when she realized she would not reach the meeting in time to participate in person.

Mr. Stroh confirmed that all present could hear the two remote members and that they could hear the Commission members and agreement was obtained by acclamation. He also announced that Anne Barnes had resigned from the Commission due to personal reasons.

## **Approval of November 16, 2022, Minutes**

Mr. Stroh noted that the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting and asked for comments or corrections; none were made. Mr. Bell-Krasner moved that the minutes be approved as distributed, Mr. Briney seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by a voice vote without dissention.

## **Administrative Update**

### Public Meeting Protocols

Ms. Dressel explained that the Board of Supervisors had made an administrative change that would become effective March 1, 2023. This change lifts the emergency declarations related to the COVID Pandemic and the need to hold in-person meetings. Moving forward, this commission may meet entirely virtually twice a year if it so chooses. In general, the commission and its committees may hold virtual meetings twice a year or up to 20 percent of the meetings. Meetings can be held anywhere that is publicly accessible; similarly, all-virtual meetings must be held on a platform that can be accessed by the public. Meetings must be posted at least three days in advance, and require posting in multiple locations; consequently, Ms. Dressel stressed that her office needs to receive the meeting information at least one and, preferably, more than one business day in advance of the three-day period.

For in-person meetings with remote participation where a quorum of members must be physically present, a clarification was made that a quorum for the committees is not restricted to the commission members and may include non-commission members. Commission members should contact Ms. Dressel if they have any questions about meeting arrangements.

## **Committee Reports**

### Inclusion

Mr. Bell-Krasner reported that his committee still needs one member from the commission to meet the minimum of four; consequently, they have not yet held a meeting. He hopes to hold a meeting within the next month.

### Outreach

Ms. Simmons reported that Mr. Frey had joined the committee since the last meeting, bringing the total to three; so she also needs one more member. She had obtained from Ms. Bulova a list of organizations included in outreach efforts during the county's 275<sup>th</sup> celebration, as well as a list assembled by Paul Gilbert, Director of NOVA Parks. The committee plans to review the list to determine the relevance of each contact for this commission.

### Activity

Ms. Moffitt reported that her committee had met and agreed to try to meet monthly. Some activity ideas that they had discussed included having the Declaration of Independence read from the steps of Falls Church, having a passport-type program for sites in the county, and having an

essay contest. There was consensus that these were good ideas. In response to Ms. Moffitt's question as to whether we could plan activities in jurisdictions that were not technically in the county—e.g. in Falls Church—it was suggested that this could be possible and coordination with similar local planning groups would facilitate such events. Ms. Moffitt also reported that her committee felt that it could benefit from having a local historian on the committee, someone knowledgeable about the county's involvement in the Revolutionary War.

#### Marketing and Communications

Mr. Lennon reported that his committee had initially focused on establishing a logo and a web presence for the commission. The Virginia 250 Commission offers a variation of its logo for each jurisdiction; and Mr. Lennon circulated a facsimile of that logo for Fairfax County, saying that the committee decided to go with that logo rather than pay to have a separate logo designed. He added that the logo can only be used by individuals or entities that request permission to use it through this commission. He will ask the state organization what the process is for asking to use the logo. Ms. Schlotterbeck asked if there were guidelines in place on who can use the logo and Mr. Lennon said he would find out.

The committee also decided to take advantage of the local jurisdiction component of the state web site and to complement that with something on the Visit Fairfax site. Mr. Lennon further reported that no money had been spent and no grants had been applied for to date. The grants through the state commission are awarded annually, so there will be opportunities to apply for them in the future. Mr. Stroh noted that there are some limitations on the grants because of the organizations through which they are made available.

The committee recommended that the commission develop a two-sided brochure that could be used for a variety of purposes.

#### Signature Event

Mr. Lennon reported that this committee was fortunate to have Ashley Morris of Celebrate Fairfax as one of its members. She is very familiar with planning county-wide events. The committee was undecided on whether to hold one large signature event centrally or to hold multiple smaller events in a variety of locations across the county—perhaps one in each magisterial district. The committee envisions that if multiple events are planned, they would be held on the same day or weekend. A decision on which direction to proceed could depend partly on funding. Also, concern was expressed about overlapping with other committees. Mr. Stroh noted that the working group did not conceive that the signature event would necessarily be educational and that the intent was to have one big extravaganza.

Commission members were asked for their thoughts on one versus many events. Mr. McGuire observed that it could be more challenging to solicit sponsors for multiple events than it would for a single event. Mr. Bell-Krasner said that having multiple events that were more community-based would allow for people to identify more closely with and take more ownership in the event; and planning a single event would require extra caution that it not be exclusionary. Ms. Herrick stated that there may be a need for more than one event in a district; for example, Dranesville District includes Herndon and Mount Vernon, which are very far apart. Mr. Briney

noted that finding a space large enough to accommodate the single event would be challenging. Ms. Simmons said that she did not think residents identified with the magisterial district boundaries, to which Mr. Lennon clarified that the intent was to celebrate in multiple locations and not necessarily by district. Ms. Simmons also noted that having multiple events on one day may limit the participation of local dignitaries or residents who are interested in attending more than one of the events. Mr. Kohlenberger added that some of the talent needed might not be available for multiple events.

#### Youth and Family Engagement

Ms. Simmons reported that she had exchanged emails with Ms. Maurer, who is this committee's chair and was unable to attend the meeting. This committee is the least populated of all the committees and needs members from the commission. She asked if it would be appropriate for two committees to meet jointly; especially if the members overlapped. Mr. Stroh said he saw no problem with that as long as the business was conducted and reported separately.

#### Finance

Ms. Bulova summarized this committees work under Old Business

#### **Old Business**

##### County Budget Request

Ms. Bulova stated that the commission has \$20,000 in fiscal year 2023 funds at its disposal. In addition, the \$150,000 in fiscal year 2024 funds remains in the proposed budget. Committee chairs should identify their needs for the future so that we will be prepared for future requests.

##### VA250 Update

Mr. Stroh reported that the state commission is up and running; he and Ms. Bulova are both on it. The state commission has a major event planned for March 10-12 in Williamsburg. The event coincides with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Committee of Correspondence organized March 12, 1773, by the Virginia House of Burgesses. The event is a planning event for state and local level 250 leaders; representatives from about 30 other states have been invited to attend; and the hope is that the puts the Virginia 250 organization at the center of the planning for the 250<sup>th</sup> commemoration. Mr. Stroh will report on the event at our next meeting.

##### Virginia Association of Museums Conference, March 11-14

Mr. Stroh announced that the VAM Conference will be held March 11-14 in Harrisonburg at the Hotel Madison. The theme on Monday March 13<sup>th</sup> is the 250<sup>th</sup> commemoration. There will be a panel of four people: Christy Coleman, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation; Jamie Bosket, Virginia Museum of History and Culture; Patrick Lennon, Visit Fairfax; and Eric Monday, Virginia Bar Association. Mr. Stroh encouraged us to attend if we were able.

##### Commission Bylaws

Ms. Simmons asked Ms. Dressel about the status of the Board of Supervisors' approval of the commission's bylaws. Ms. Dressel said the bylaws are on the agenda for the March 2023 board meeting.

## **New Business**

### **Semi-Annual Report to Board of Supervisors**

Mr. Stroh reminded the members of the requirement to report to the Board of Supervisors semi-annually. He proposed having these reports mid-year and year-end and volunteered to take the lead on them, with input needed on the first one in May. Ms. Speer commented that October might be a better time for a report so that it could coincide with a budget request. Mr. Stroh asked if the report need to be written or oral and Ms. Speer said she would discuss the details with Supervisor Storck. Mr. Stroh suggested we wait for that feedback before setting timeframes or formats for the reports; he will work with the staff to clarify what is needed. Ms. Mehdi volunteered to help with the reports.

## **Strategic Discussion**

### **Fundraising and Resource Generation**

Mr. Stroh said that we are expected to raise private money and not rely totally on county money. He is willing to chair this effort. There are opportunities for grants, including he two grants available through the VA250. He asked everyone to provide ideas about corporate and individual support to him so that we can create a list of potential supporters. Mr. Bell-Krasner asked if there was an opportunity to latch on to fundraising of other organizations. Mr. Stroh said that it might depend on the organization. There are mechanisms in place to get support from the private sector and we want accessibility and inclusion to be priorities. Mr. McGuire suggested defining levels of sponsorship and associated benefits of each level. Mr. Briney commented that determining the signature event could drive the need for private funding.

## **Open Forum/Q&A**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Upcoming meetings are March 22 at 1 pm and May 24 at 1 pm. Ms. Dressel noted that the Fairfax Cty Library has been reserved for both of these regular meetings.

## **Adjourn**

Mr. Kohlenberger moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Briney seconded the motion; and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Stroh adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Nancy A. Simmons, Secretary

## **Attachments**

10 Jan 2023 Signature Events Committee Meeting Minutes  
20 Jan 2023 Activity Committee Meeting Minutes  
31 Jan 2023 Marketing Committee Meeting Minutes

Signature Event Committee Meeting Minutes

1/10/23

Committee Members Absent: Carol Herrick, Matt Briney, Gretchen Bulova

Committee Members Present: Brent Feito, Elliot Bell-Krasner, Don Hakenson, Ashley Morris, Patrick Lennon – Chris Barbuschak and Bryan Hudson (Remote)

Start Time 1:08PM

Location: Chantilly Regional Library

The committee members present introduced themselves, the organizations they represent and what duties they serve on the 250<sup>th</sup> Commission

Brent welcomes everyone and states that the main purpose of the meeting was to get the process started (whether and what we're going to do) in regards to a "signature event" that would be the responsibility of the Commission to plan, fund, organize, and execute.

The election of a chairperson for this committee was the next agenda item as to establish leadership for the committee moving forward. Elliott detailed chair responsibilities. Patrick nominated Ashley Morris as her area of expertise is event planning. Discussion ensued on whether a non-commission member was allowed to chair a subcommittee. Elliott reviewed the bylaws and stated that he believed it was allowed. Patrick stated that he would be willing to volunteer to be co-chair with Ashley to ensure a commission member at least had a role in subcommittee leadership. The committee agreed this would be a good compromise and voted unanimously to approve Patrick and Ashley co-chairs of the signature event committee.

The next agenda item was a discussion on what the signature event would look like. Brent mentioned the National Museum of the U.S. Army and Mount Vernon would be having their own events and Don suggested we gather information on specifics of what they, and other organizations would be doing already. Ashley asked about the timing and funding for the event. The committee agreed that the main events would occur around July 4, 2026 – but Brent pointed out the Army Museum would be having its main commemoration in 2025 as to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of the U.S. Army. The committee shared with Ashley that the budget request for FY24 had already been submitted and there was a line item for the signature event funding in order to prepare/reserve/pay for event space, equipment, permits, etc. The main topic of discussion was whether to focus on:

- planning one big event on one day in a central location in the County like the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

or

- plan multiple events on one day at one location within each supervisory district (9 total) that would showcase local history and culture specific to each particular area - which collectively would represent a Countywide celebration

The remainder of the meeting was brainstorming different ideas of how Fairfax County could highlight not only our historical past, but also our wonderful diversity and ingenuity of the present, and the exciting future that lies ahead. Everyone agreed that the most important thing to do was to create something that was accessible to all, inclusive for all residents, and relevant for all people that call Fairfax County home in the hopes that afterwards all who participate feel like they are proud to be a part of this moment in American history.

Meeting was adjourned.

**Fairfax 250th Commission  
Activity Committee**

**Meeting Date: January 20th, 2023**

**Location: City of Fairfax Regional Library, Room 103**

**Attendees:**

Suzanne Moffitt - Chair

Bev Schlotterbeck

Brent Feito

Paul Kohlenberger

**Absent:**

Nancy Simmons

**Meeting Notes:**

The committee chair asked the question of how often the committee should meet to be effective. It was agreed that the committee will meet once a month in the near term to begin to lay the groundwork for future efforts.

The committee would like to look at the bylaws of the commission to see if it would be possible to hold committee meetings virtually to facilitate better attendance and communication. This will be brought up at the next commission meeting for discussion amongst the group.

The purpose of the committee was discussed, and agreed to include the planning of various events and activities that support the 250th Commemoration. It will differ from the Signature Event Committee in that the activities would span a longer period of time, and in many districts where possible.

The committee agrees that activities will include events planned by the commission, as well as endorsing and publicizing events from other related institutions. The following ideas were discussed.

- It is said that the Declaration of Independence was read aloud on the steps of Falls Church Episcopal Church during the revolution, and it would be interesting to reenact that reading for the community.
  - Discussion was had on how we may be able to extend this activity to the rest of the county, by picking places of civic significance and simultaneously read the Declaration of Independence at a specified time and event.
- The commission also discussed the idea of creating a passport program for various historic sites and events around the county to encourage participants to visit significant revolutionary war places throughout the county.
- Create an essay contest for students about what the revolution means to them, and work with a local historic site to create a special experience as a prize for winning the competition.
- Work with local libraries to create displays of reading materials and information regarding the American Revolution across the county.
- Work in a similar fashion with local community centers to have displays regarding the Revolution in Fairfax County.
- Re-create a traveling "militia muster" that would visit each district of the county and use living historians to create the environment of a militia gathering encouraging young people to enlist in the Continental Army.

The committee also discussed how the revolution affected Fairfax County, and whether there would be enough historic sites to support county wide celebrations. In the short term the committee will work to get a list of

relevant sites to get a better understanding of this layout. The committee agreed that if there are not revolutionary era sites in a district, that does not mean events and celebrations cannot be held in these areas. In some ways we could use current civic sites to mimic those important places during the revolution.

The committee discussed looking at the roster of revolutionary war soldiers that came from Fairfax County to see if any interesting information on the individuals or places they came from could be learned.

- The list was emailed out to the rest of the committee for review.

There was a brief discussion of the status of Claude Moore Colonial Farm as a possible site for some activities, but it appears that much of the original buildings have been deactivated and are not likely to be suitable for events.

It was also discussed having a representative from the Fairfax County History Commission on the Activity Committee who could be a resource for Fairfax County history during the time of the Revolution War. Bev Schlotterbeck mentioned that she has a contact that she will talk with. Paul Kohlenberger will also discuss with his contact.

## Marketing Committee

Committees should keep general minutes to include:

1. Date/Time of meeting
  - a. 1/31/2023 at 1pm
2. Meeting location
  - a. Virtual Meeting via Zoom
3. Members present, presence of a quorum (the meeting can be held w/o a quorum, but no decisions can be made)
  - a. Members Present: Patrick Lennon, Matt Briney, Bev Schlotterbeck, Gretchen Bulova
  - b. Members Absent: Christopher Barbuschak
  - c. Public Attendees: Lea Edwards, Janice Dixon, and Susie Mulligan from the Fairfax Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Glenn Culver for ad agency Streetsense
4. Summary of discussion
  - a. Patrick welcomed all those in attendance and everyone introduced themselves. The initial focus of the meeting was going to be a discussion surrounding the creation of the Fairfax County/America 250<sup>th</sup> logo. However, prior to the meeting we discovered that the Virginia Commission has made available logo development for each jurisdiction throughout the commonwealth. These jurisdiction specific logos will all complement the Virginia Commission logo. Committee members agreed that we should request use of a Fairfax County specific version of the logo. The Virginia Commission also makes available to local jurisdictions a landing page on their website to utilize to promote local events and information. Committee members agreed that we should take advantage of this, but also create a complimentary page curated and hosted by Visit Fairfax to give us more flexibility on the content it contains. The Visit Fairfax hosted page would link to the commission page. Committee members agreed that the Fairfax Commission should have a presence on social media as well. Lastly, committee members agreed that a two-sided rack card should be created and distributed to boost awareness locally that this initiative is taking place. Patrick agreed to price out the rack card design and printing.
5. Record of any official actions taken by committee
  - a. The committee recommends that the full commission vote and approve the following
    - i. Adopting the use of the Fairfax County/Virginia 250<sup>th</sup> logo created for us by the state commission – this would be our official commission logo moving forward
    - ii. Creating a landing page on the state commission website for Fairfax County

- iii. Allow the marketing committee to move forward in creating an informational rack card for distribution locally to raise awareness of the 250<sup>th</sup>
- iv. Developing a presence on social media by establishing accounts on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram