

# Minutes for Hampton 2019 Commemorative Commission

November 13, 2018 – 4:00 p.m. at Hampton History Museum

**Attending:** Ann Bane, Steven Bond, Terry Brown, Luci Cochran, Colita Fairfax, Ryan Fontes-Taylor, Mary Fugere, Larry Gibson, Simeon Green, Hugh Harrell, Glenn Oder, Dionne Redding, Raymond Tripp, Claude Vann, Vanessa Thaxton-Ward, Bill Wiggins, Audrey Williams, Annette Oakley

**Excused Absence:** Aaron Firth, Jimmy Gray, Kemi Layeni, Rob Shuford

**Absent:** Billie, Einselen, Bill Harper, Jonathan McBride

**Guests:** Susan Lineberry (Fort Monroe), Beth Austin (Hampton History Museum), Ryan Downey (CVB), Chauncey Brown (Engaged Citizen), Richard Press and Laurine Press (Engaged Citizens)

---

## Welcome and Roll Call:

Lt. Col. Claude Vann welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Roll call was completed.

## Review and Approval of Minutes – October:

Claude Vann stated the minutes from October were provided for review and asked if there were any changes.

**ACTION:** Claude Vann called for a motion to approve the minutes. Glenn Oder made a motion and Vanessa Thaxton-Ward seconded. A vote was taken and motion passed.

## Co-Chairs Report:

Claude Vann stated he intended to do the 2019 presentation to the Olde Wythe Neighborhood Association, but due to limited time and ambitious agenda, the presentation was rescheduled. He stated he has also received some creative ideas that can be incorporated into 2019 events and will share later in the meeting.

Colita Fairfax stated it is important for the Commissioners to find time to help present 2019 commemorations to community groups and it should not be the responsibility of staff. She stated there is a presentation on December 20th at 7:00 p.m. to the Hampton and Newport News Boy Scout Leaders and she asked for volunteers; preferably two Commissioners. Raymond Tripp confirmed he could present, Simeon Green can possibly assist and Glenn Oder would be an alternate presenter. The location is Chestnut Memorial United Methodist Church in Newport News. City staff will also assist with the set up.

Budget Report: No Report

## Committee Reports:

### **Commemoration Committee:**

Bill Wiggins reported on behalf of Aaron Firth, stating they have met twice-- October 16 and November 7-- and are making progress on the various aspects of the planned Commemorative weekend. They are coordinating with possible partners and vendors. He stated we do not know the specifics of the dignitaries that will be in attendance. He stated the State Commission will be handling the invitations to the Friday evening reception. Bill Wiggins stated they have received a protocol clarification from the Mayor's office. He stated the committee discussed letters to be sent to African dignitaries and embassies, and that coordination needs to take place to avoid duplications. The committee is following through with a headliner for the concert; there was discussion regarding Rhiannon Giddens, Sounds of Blackness and other groups. Mary Fugere stated she has confirmed that the Hampton Coliseum is being held as a potential venue for the concert. She asked the commissioners for their ideas for potential artist and requested committee members email her suggestions. Bill Wiggins stated the Sunday Healing event planning is progressing well and they continue to work with partners to have a symbolic bell ringing at the event. This event is being headed up by the National Park Service, and there will be a musical performances, statements of reconciliation and prayer. He stated there will be a special event for African dignitaries on Saturday. Steven Bond commented that the Mayor will make a decision on the timeframe for the reception activities.

**Marketing Committee:**

Mary Fugere distributed a copy of the 'Marketing Report for 2019' and reviewed the items (copy on file). She stated the CVB and The Meridian Group have met with every regional television station to discuss 2019 partnerships. The Meridian agency is compiling information and the CVB will review each station's partnership offering and get back with the committee. Mary Fugere also confirmed with the City Manager that January would be a good month to give a presentation to City Council; she would like a copy of the presentation in advance. Mary Fugere stated CVB has placed a full ad in the Virginia Travel Guide and the publisher liked the 2019 ad so much that they displayed it at the VA-1 Tourism Summit in Richmond. She stated the library has agreed to distribute 2019 bookmarks to anyone who comes in to check out a library book. Mary Fugere also mentioned they have a list of Commissioners to participate in a video recording, which will be used for a promotional and recap video, as well as television ads. Claude Vann mentioned he saw the 2019 ad in the NAACP publication and wants to be sure something is in the MEAC brochure. Mary Fugere stated they are also going to participate in the Virginian Pilot's Black History Program in February.

**Education Committee:**

Colita Fairfax stated October was a busy month; she and Ms. Williams worked on the 'Spears of Migration' panel to be held March 19, 2019. She stated the committee is also working on the Essay and Art contest and she will connect with Ann Bane. She mentioned there are a few items that were left off the calendar and she will circle back with Mary Fugere.

Old Business:

Luci Cochran thanked Beth for her hard work on the '1619: The First Africans' document (copy on file) and stated the Hampton History Museum will put the information online. There was some discussion on the content and accuracy of the document. Steven Bond suggested we move forward with the document. Claude Vann stated if committee members have input to inject, to please contact Luci Cochran and her staff. It was suggested the discussion be tabled until next meeting; Claude Vann asked that it be an item included on the agenda.

**Making of America Tour Map:**

Colita Fairfax stated she will send an email with a copy of the Making of American Conference map.

**Community Presentation:**

Claude Vann emphasized the need for volunteers to do 2019 presentations and support that effort.

**Kick-off Event:**

Claude Vann mentioned the Kick-Off Event is coming together magnificently! He mentioned some of the details; the date will be February 1, 2019 from 5:00-7:30 p.m., and possible locations are Queen Street Baptist and First Baptist Church. They are looking at possible speakers, such as Senator Kaine and Congressman Scott and possibly include the Hampton University choir. He stated the Committee is charged with pulling together a list of invitees, to include the seven cities leadership and various organizations.

**Committee Proposal Process:**

Luci Cochran stated they are working with City Attorney's Office on the proposal (based on a model that Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services uses) and she hopes to have an answer soon. She stated it is a guide for people that may be new to the process.

New Business:**Executive Committee Calendar:**

Steven Bond stated the Executive Committee met and some members have different Outlook meetings scheduled. They agreed to eliminate the meetings and re-send a new calendar invite to those on the Executive Committee.

Around the Table:

Claude Vann shared an idea of including 2019 information during the HCS morning announcements. Audrey Williams elaborated that the announcements would be during the month of February and that it would inform people of more accurate history of African culture, such as that people were artist, farmers, doctors, mathematicians, etc. Ann Bane stated it would be good to have a fact for each 28 days of February and that its building specific. Luci Cochran suggested information could go out in the Friday packages. Ann Bane stated she will be happy to explore what works best with each building with the team leaders. She suggested information should also be ongoing and mentioned '2019 Schools'. Terry Brown suggested the 400th Anniversary be printed on pencils or shirts. Hugh Harrell suggested a more Afro-centric attire. He also mentioned the American Evolution Brochure's calendar of events does not include traditional African holidays. Steven Bond asked that the 28-day announcement message be forwarded to him for Channel 47. Claude Vann thanked Ms. Williams and her committee for the idea.

Claude Vann stated Chauncey Brown had another idea called 'Rise Up', which is new and true depictions of African American heroes. Mr. Brown read information on his idea of a proposed art contest and provided a copy to the Commissioners (copy on file). He also introduced Richard Press and his wife Laurine, who have an art gallery and are a great resource. He stated this effort would broaden the knowledge and scope of 1619 Commemoration. Claude Vann thanked Mr. Brown and stated he looks forward to exploring the idea further.

Bill Wiggins encouraged everyone to look at the American Evolution and read a couple of the questions, which are included in the elementary level SOL. He read some of the questions and shared concern about the information.

Hugh Harrell stated there is a Federal 2019 Commission and would like information. Colita Fairfax stated Terry Brown has been appointment to the Commission and congratulated him. She stated information regarding the commission is online.

Glenn Oder also gave congratulations to Terry Brown. They both work with the National Park Service and hope the first Federal 2019 Commission meeting will be at Fort Monroe. He stated he would like there to be an opportunity for the State Commemoration Committee to give a presentation and possibly do a site visit of Fort Monroe. He stated they will keep everyone informed.

Simeon Green stated at the next meeting he will share information on a Unity Service, which will be held on February 19th, as well as an MLK Service in January.

Ryan Fontes-Taylor requested the video from the State Commemoration. Mary Fugere will send to Annette Oakley to forward to the Commissioners.

Steven Bond stated he spoke with Congressman Scott and he is excited about the Kick-off Event and will check his calendar. He also contacted Senator Kaine's office, and filled out the protocol form and he is working on that.

Mary Fugere has the calendar for distribution and highlighted areas of question.

Terry Brown stated the NPS is putting out a Commemorative brochure in January to highlight events and if anyone has events to share, please let him know. He stated being a part of the Federal Commission is an honor and he will represent the community very well. He also stated there is a committee working on Healing Day for August 25th and he has created a letter requesting the use of the symbolic bell from Appomattox Court House.

Adjournment:

Claude Vann adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

*Submitted by Annette Oakley, 11/28/18*