

## Commemorative Works Committee Meeting Minutes

May 20th, 2022

1:04 to 1:40 PM

### Attendees:

#### Committee Members

Anita Cozart, OP Interim Director  
Dulce Naime, DPR  
Jay Coleman, Citizen Member  
Lauren Dugas-Glover, CAH  
Otto Condon, Citizen Member

#### OP Staff

Alisonya Poole  
Chris Shaheen  
Leslye Howerton

### Minutes:

Chris Shaheen (OP) opened the meeting with an overview of the Diamond Teague Memorial, located along the Anacostia River in Diamond Teague Park. Diamond Teague was a volunteer who had completed seven months of service in the Earth Conservation Corps program that put the youth of Anacostia to work restoring the Anacostia River. He was an emerging community leader, hard working corps member, public speaker and motivator about to go to college on the AmeriCorps scholarship. He was killed while standing on his family's front porch on Prout Street SE in 2003.

Anita Cozart (OP) welcomed Committee members, recognized the diverse experiences the Commemorative Works Committee members have, and offered her appreciation for their time and participation.

Shaheen stated the Committee would not be approving minutes from the January 2021 meeting and moved on to discuss updates and Locate, the commemorative work location strategy. He explained this would be a high-level overview of the strategy and that the full document will be shared with the Committee after it is final, which will be very soon. The overview included a review of why the District needs the location strategy, a summary of the February 2021 public meeting to discuss the strategy, who the strategy is for, and what is included in the strategy. Alisonya Poole (OP) reviewed examples of profiles for three sites.

Shaheen explained that with the completion of Locate the District can move forward on other commemorative work initiatives, including developing a vision plan, fulfilling additional overarching recommendation of the Mayor's DC Facilities and Commemorative Expressions report, and the Diverse Washingtonians Act. Staff can also use the document to guide it's work on the Commemorative Works Technical Assistance Program – an initiative funded through an FY23 Budget Enhancement – that will

work toward commemorating Black Washingtonians and other leaders of color in all Wards of the District.

Shaheen presented the Office of Planning's ideas for publicizing Locate and asked for feedback from the Committee on these ideas. The six ideas included:

1. Taking advantage of existing resources to promote the strategy, like updates to OP's webpage (which could include a storymap) and including it in the agency's newsletter – this is what we have identified as the top priority;
2. Updating the project page from the February 2021 public meeting;
3. Developing a tweet campaign using OP's twitter account – we have also identified this as a top priority);
4. Sending out a notice about the strategy to all Advisory Neighborhood Commissions;
5. Promoting the strategy through communication office with agency partners; and,
6. Issuing a press release.

Otto Condon asked what promoting the strategy through agency partners would involve. He stated he appreciates the foundation and framework the strategy provides for the District, and that one way to move new projects forward in the District is by calling them a pilot project. He also asked about how District agencies work together and how commemorative works can be better incorporated into District capital projects. Shaheen stated OP staff would work with communication offices of other agencies to inform and promote the strategy, versus implementation of the recommendations.

Cozart stated that June 7 is the date when we will know more about a proposed FY23 budget enhancement that will make it easier for OP to work with other District agencies. She also stated that OP's Streets for People initiative could be expanded to think differently about creative streetscape and uses of the right-of-way.

Dulce Naime stated that an easy way to spread information is through OP's existing planning processes. For example, OP is discussing small plans at community meetings where information about the commemorative work location strategy could be shared as well as how to access the location strategy's Public Input website. This would also allow for more community engagement. She agreed with Otto that capital projects should require a commemorative work component and encouraged additional collaboration with DDOT, DPR, and CAH. She also recommended contacting community groups focused on historic research collaboration. She stated additional research on commemoration and historic signage that highlights past events in specific neighborhood should be communicated to neighborhoods, the importance of sharing information about the location strategy with small community groups the intention, and the possibilities of community groups using small parks for commemorative works.

Jay Coleman states that political leaders should be made aware of Locate and that grants should be made available for commemorative works to get communities to think about public art and representation through public art, and not just murals. He encouraged creating ways to think about how to commemorate people and referred to Curry Hackett's DC High Water Mark project installation at The Wharf.

Cozart stated it will be necessary to work with other District agencies to identify opportunities and implement some of the ideas discussed during the meeting.

Shaheen stated that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for June 17th, 1:00 to 2:00 PM and that more information on that meeting's agenda will be shared prior to that meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.

DRAFT