

Commemorative Work Committee Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2021

1:00 to 2:00 PM

Attendees:

Committee Members

Andrew Trueblood, OP, Chairperson
Sandy Allen, DHCD
Jay Coleman, Citizen Member
Otto Condon, Citizen Member
Kathleen Beeton, DCRA
Lauren Dugas-Glover, CAH
Yohance Fuller, DGS
Dulce Naime, DPR
Jonathan Rogers, DDOT

OP Staff

Vivian Guerra
Kevin Storm
Chris Shaheen

Public Attendees

Frank Smith
Sivad Rogers
Ekaterina Elson

Minutes:

A quorum of the Commemorative Work Committee (CWC) members were present. Chris Shaheen welcomed members, stated this was the first meeting since the CWC was reconvened in December 2019 when commemorative work applications were being presented, and introduced Andrew Trueblood, Chair of the CWC.

AT called the meeting to order and explained that applications would be presented by staff and each Committee members would have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on each application.

CS explained the agenda and the Committee approved minutes from the December 11th, 2020 meeting.

CS gave a recap of the on public meeting held on February 18th to discuss the location strategy:

- There was a high level of participation in the meeting – 62 attendees, 197 survey participants, and 251 comments as of Feb. 18th;

- The overwhelming number of survey participants – 96% - reacted positively to having a commemorative work in their neighborhood; and,
- Participants reported they considered associated benefits to having a commemorative work in a neighborhood to include promoting neighborhood history, creating a sense of pride, fostering inter-generational connections, creating gathering places, gateways, among others.

AT reported on changes coming to the composition of the CWC membership:

- Key changes reduce number of DC agencies on the committee from nine to four;
- The Director of OP remains chair of the Committee and three other District agencies;
- The number of citizen members increase from three to five, with two appointed by the Mayor and three appointed by District Council Chair; current Mayoral citizen appointees will remain;
- OP is in the process of talking to Chairman Mendelson's Office about making Council appointments ASAP so the work of the Committee can continue uninterrupted; and,
- 2/26/21 CWC meeting is likely the last meeting with current composition, but we will know more about that as OP staff talks to Chairman Mendelson about the transition and timing.

CS explained the CWC's role in the review process for commemorative work applications:

1. The applicant meets with OP and submits an application;
2. CWC considers the application for concept review;
3. Applicants complete other required reviews including District agencies (ie. Public Space Committee), Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, National Capitol Memorial Advisory Commission, and Old Georgetown Board/Commission of Fine Arts; and,
4. CWC considers the application for final review and adopts formal recommendation to Mayor and District Council.

The applicant is responsible for working with Mayor and Council to submit Act or legislation for their review and action.

Application #1 Review: Bust of Huseyn Javid

Shaheen presented the application for a bust of Huseyn Javid in public space under the control of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT).

Discussion:

Dulce Naime asked about the DDOT's review, name and information on the sculpture of the bust, letters of support from the community, information about the artist and fabricator, and if information on Javid could be included in the application. Otto Condon suggested that examples of Javid's poetry could be incorporated into the commemorative work or interpretive information and asked about the scale of the bust. Lauren Dugas-Glover requested additional information on how the bronze bust will be finished, the casting process, materials used for the gold detail on the marble base, and what kind of maintenance plan will be put in place.

AT summarized additional recommendations for OP staff to include in their final report of the concept review:

- Incorporate information on Javid into the commemorative work through an interpretive panel or digital media (ie. who he was, his importance, examples of his poetry, etc.);
- Provide additional information on the sculpture, fabrication of the bust, finishes, and materials; and,
- Provide more information the scale of the bust (ie. will it be life-like?).

AT noted that the CWC application should be adjusted to include information about artist, fabricator, and fabrication location.

Vote:

Dugas-Glover moved to support the draft report and recommended changes. The motion was seconded by Yohance Fuller. Committee members unanimously voted to support the motion.

Application #2 Review: Statue of Abraham Lincoln

Shaheen presented the statue of Abraham Lincoln in public space under the control of the District of Department of Transportation.

Discussion

Naime asked for more on materials used for the base and lighting of the statue and recommended incorporating more information on the statue and what it represents using a QR (Quick Response) code. She noted that the sculpture was already completed and wanted to see graphics depicting an image of the sculpture on the proposed site. She also asked the applicant to provide letters of community support for the application. Frank Smith, speaking for the applicant sponsor, stated the steps where the statue is located lead to the front doors of the museum. Jay Coleman wanted to know more about the artist and about the finish of the statue to make sure that it matched the finish of the statue at the African America Civil War Memorial. Frank Smith, speaking for the applicant sponsor, confirmed that the proposed materials match those of the AACWM memorial.

Trueblood summarized additional recommendations for OP staff to include in their final report of the concept review:

- Provide additional information about lighting of the statue (as this area has a high degree of nighttime activity) and finish of the bronze;
- Incorporate information on the commemorative work through an interpretive panel or digital media; and,
- Provide additional renderings of the statue showing the proposed statue together with its surrounding architectural features (stairs, building entrance/door, etc)

Vote:

Sandy Allen moved to support the draft report and recommended changes. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Beeton. Dugas-Glover recused herself from the vote because the Commission on the Arts

and Humanities provided funding for the statue. All other committee members unanimously voted to support the motion.

Next Steps

CS reviewed next steps that staff will be taking and for the work of the Committee:

- Staff will finalize reports on both applications and share comments with the applicant.
- OP will continue to collect public comments on the location strategy through March 25th and will have an update on preferred locations at a future Committee meeting.
- Staff is developing schedule for monthly Committee meetings for 2021 which may be cancelled on a case-by-case basis if there are no applications or other items that need to be discussed. Ideally the Committee will consider no more than one application at each meeting.
- OP staff is continuing to work with District Council on transition of Committee membership as this may be last meeting of the Committee under the current membership.