

Commemorative Work Committee Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2021
1:00 to 2:00 PM

Attendees:

Committee Members

Andrew Trueblood, OP, Chairperson
Jay Coleman, Citizen Member
Otto Condon, Citizen Member
Lauren Dugas-Glover, CAH
Dulce Naime, DPR
Marnique Heath, HPRB

OP Staff

Vivian Guerra
Chris Shaheen

Public Attendees

Frank Smith

Minutes:

A quorum of the Commemorative Work Committee (CWC) members were present. Chris Shaheen welcomed members and introduced Andrew Trueblood, Chair of the CWC.

AT called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and explained the Lincoln Statue application would be presented by staff and each Committee members would have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the application.

CS explained the agenda and the Committee approved minutes from the February 26th, 2021 meeting.

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

- Participants recommended nine potential subjects for commemorative works that have been forwarded to the University of the District of Columbia for consideration as part of their study;
- Nine existing District commemorative works were identified; and,
- Three sites were identified to be considered as alternative preferred locations, one each in Wards 1, 5, and 7.

CS reviewed changes to CWC membership as required by the “Diverse Washingtonians Commemorative Works Amendment Act of 2020” and stated OP is still waiting to hear from DC Council Chair Mendelson regarding his three appointments. CS requested CWC members forward any potential members they want to recommend that could be forwarded to DC Council Chair for his consideration.

CS reviewed the Lincoln and the Spirit of Freedom commemorative work application and shared information on its proposed location in the city and at the Grimke School. He reviewed the seven parallel reviews the application went through and completed: ANC-1B, National Capitol Memorial Advisory Commission, DDOT/Public Space Committee, Historic Preservation Office, DC Water, PEPCO, and Washington Gas.

CS went over outstanding issues related to the Lincoln and Spirit of Freedom statue discussed at the February 26th meeting and how each had been resolved:

- Additional information on lighting of the statue – The applicant had proposed lighting in response to CWC comments, but DDOT does not support non-standard lights in public space and noted a streetlight less than 20' from the proposed location is part of approved streetscape plans. A lighting specialist for the project also determined additional lighting is unnecessary;
- Finish of the bronze - The material and finish of the sculpture at the African American Civil War Memorial and proposed statue of Lincoln are identical. There may be a slight difference initially because of weathering of the existing sculpture;
- Information on the commemorative work through an interpretive panel or digital media - The sponsor will provide a mobile application to inform the public about the Lincoln statue, African American Civil War Memorial Plaza, and the African American Civil War Memorial Museum. The mobile application will use GPS (Global Positioning System) to identify other locations of interest, exhibits, Wall of Honor and Lincoln Statue to visitors. All mobile application information will be available directly to users through cell phone display; and,
- Renderings showing the proposed statue together with its surrounding architectural features (stairs, building entrance/door, etc.) – The sponsor provided a daytime rendering of the statue located in the restored grand staircase at the Grimke school and its context.

Discussion:

CWC members discussed the application. They supported the Public Space Committee decision to remove the lighting. The CWC requested further consideration of minor issues to be resolved through discussion between the Sponsor and reviewing agencies:

1. Changing the color of the fence surrounding the statue to match that used for other metal fencing and gates associated with the Museum and orientation of fence railings;
2. Increasing height of the commemorative work by placing it on a low, granite base; and,
3. Additional consideration of ADA interface with the sculpture through interpretative panels or other means.

The CWC voted unanimously to support approval of the commemorative work by the Mayor and District Council.

The CWC adjourned at 1:35 PM.