

Commemorative Work Committee Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2021
2:00 to 3:00 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

Anita Cozart
Chris Shaheen

Minutes:

Anita Cozart called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda. The April Commemorative Works Committee (CWC) meeting minutes were not discussed. Chris Shaheen reviewed his coordination with the University of the District of Columbia as it begins their study to identify up to 12 notable Washingtonians that could be potential subjects for commemorative works. They are interested in the locations identified as part of the location strategy and has requested OP's involvement on a panel discussion in Fall 2021 to discuss their study. OP is recommending CWC member Dulce Naime be on the panel and will continue working with UDC on their initiative.

Shaheen noted the Huseyn Javid statue that CWC first reviewed in February is likely coming back for a second review in Fall 2021.

Lincoln Review Process - Discussion

Shaheen reviewed the administrative process staff used to review the Lincoln statue and asked CWC members to identify what aspects they thought worked or what could be improved. Overall, there was support for the process as it was conducted. Lauren Dugas-Glover asked about the level of detail the CWC should get into, specifically referring to past discussion related to ADA access that came up during review of the Lincoln statue. Other comments related to the initial plan submission reviewed in concept that did not show how the statue was to be located at the site. A more detailed plan reviewed for the final design raised questions related to accessibility. The CWC may need guidelines about what is needed to meet ADA compliance. The level of information submitted for concept and final review appeared to be adequate.

Dulce Naime asked how OP staff will coordinate with other agencies that do not have such formal review processes like DDOT, which forwarded the Lincoln statue to the Public Space Committee for a public vetting of the application as part of its review. Shaheen explained that each agency will need to

determine how to best evaluate commemorative works proposed on land they control. He added that agencies controlling the land where a commemorative work is proposed to be located must provide a letter of support as part of an application's documentation before a proposal can come before the CWC for a final review. However, an agency letter of support is not something staff would require for concept review since at that time the CWC may be asked to weigh in on multiple sites and a final location may not be identified.

Otto Condon raised the prospect of the CWC elevating accessibility and user experience as part of the Committee's review. Other members asked if it would be appropriate for the CWC to support exceptions to DDOT policy to support non-traditional approaches to commemorative works in public space. Shaheen explained that the CWC should emphasize what it wants to see during their concept review so that applicants can use this guidance when talking to other District agencies about proposals that may not meet their standards.

Assessment Subjects Alignment with DC Values

Shaheen explained that staff used a statement from the Mayor's DCFACES Task Force as the basis for assessing if the Lincoln or Javid statue aligned with District values and asked CWC members to share their thoughts on how this worked. CWC members commented that the statement focused on what the District wanted to discourage and not what it wanted to encourage. They noted that aspirational goals were included in the [Washingtonian Commemorative Work Act] and could be paired with the DC FACES statement to create a CWC statement it uses to assess District values for the purpose of assessing commemorative subjects. Together they would form a more complete idea of DC values. OP staff committed to draft a statement that includes a statement about what subjects should aspire to and discourage.

Location Strategy Update

Shaheen reviewed an update of the location strategy that included an update to a policy in the Comprehensive Plan and how commemoration was being incorporated into three small area plans currently underway: Pennsylvania Avenue East, Chevy Chase, and Congress Heights.

The next CWC meeting is scheduled for August 20th, 2021, 1:00 to 2:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.