

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names
www.alexandriava.gov/Confederate

First Meeting – January 27, 2016
Alexandria City Hall, Sister Cities Conference Room 1101
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

MEETING SUMMARY
(Approved February 8, 2016)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lyman, Chair, at approximately 7 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members

The members of the Advisory Group introduced themselves. All members were present.

3. Review of Establishing Resolution

Craig Fifer, staff to the Advisory Group, reviewed the City Council resolution establishing the Advisory Group.*

4. Review of Previous Public Input

Fifer reviewed the public input submitted through the feedback form at www.alexandriava.gov/Confederate, as well as a letter* submitted by the Mary Custis Lee-17th Virginia Regiment Chapter #7, United Daughters of the Confederacy.*

5. Inventory of Confederate Memorials and Street Names

Fifer reviewed the 2015 Inventory of Confederate Memorials, Names and Symbols prepared for City Council by City staff, as well as the City's 1991 Policy Concerning Flying of the Confederate Flag* and 2004 Policy on the Hanging of Flags on City Structures*.*

6. Background on Alexandria's Civil War History

Lance Mallamo, Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria, gave a chronology of Alexandria's experience during the Civil War.*

7. Plans for Public Comment and Future Meetings

The members of the Advisory Group reached consensus that there should be at least three additional meetings. One of these meetings should be primarily a public hearing, but public comment should be received at each meeting. Public comment at the next meeting should be limited to the middle hour, with discussion by members before and after. All meetings should be open to the public.

The members of the Advisory Group reached consensus that they should request an extension of the deadline to complete their work from March 15, 2016, to April 29, 2016.

8. Discussion

The members of the Advisory Group gave some initial impressions of the work before them, and requested additional information from staff on 1) the costs of changing street signs; 2) the impact on the U.S. Postal Service of changing street names; 3) the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War; 4) Current African American heritage activities and assets; 5) the origin of the name of Forrest Street; and 6) how other cities have handled Civil War issues.

The Advisory Group asked if any members of the public present would like to speak. There were approximately 20 people present, of which eight spoke during the meeting.

9. Adjournment

Lyman adjourned the meeting at approximately 9 p.m.

* These documents, as well as a video recording of the meeting, are posted at www.alexandriava.gov/Confederate.

MEMBERS

- Mary Lyman, Chair (representing the Planning Commission)
- Ruth Brannigan (at-large)
- Molly Fannon (at-large)
- Elizabeth McCall (representing the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission)
- James Lewis (representing the Transportation Commission)
- LaDonna Sanders (representing the Human Rights Commission)
- Eugene Thompson (representing the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage)

STAFF

- Craig Fifer, Director of Communications & Public Information, City of Alexandria
craig.fifer@alexandriava.gov, 703.746.3965