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**Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission Work Group #1:  
Virginians on the Monument**

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**Senate Committee Room A, Pocahontas Building  
Richmond, Virginia**

**Tuesday, July 10, 2018  
10:00 A.M.**

**SUMMARY**

The Virginians on the Monument Work Group (the Work Group) of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission (the Commission) met to review the design and content of artwork and text to be featured on the pedestal of the Emancipation Proclamation and Freedom Monument (the Monument). In 2017, the Commission voted, on the basis of the Work Group's recommendation, to include biographies and portraits of 10 African American Virginians on the Monument's base. The Commission chose Mary Elizabeth Bowser, William Harvey Carney, Gabriel, Nat Turner, Dred Scott, Rosa Dixon Bowser, John Mercer Langston, John Mitchell, Jr., Lucy Simms, and Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker for inclusion on the Monument.

The Commission received fabrication documents from the Monument's artist, Jay Warren, and its contractor, Four Winds Design, on June 25, 2018, detailing structural engineering plans and pedestal text and relief images for the Monument, which the Work Group reviewed. Members approved of the artwork and overall design of the relief portraits but suggested adjustments to the hairstyles depicted for Gabriel and Nat Turner to better fit the time period represented. Members also requested more information from the artist on the size of the panel text.

The Work Group discussed revisions to the proposed panel text and recommended lengthening the biographies to provide more historical context. The Work Group appointed a sub-work group of Dr. Edward Ayers, Dr. Luranett Lee, and Dr. Gregg Kimball to further review and revise the pedestal text. The sub-work group planned to complete its revision of the text in the coming week.

Members planned to meet again the following week on July 17 to review the revised pedestal text proposed by the sub-work group and to make a recommendation on the pedestal text and relief images to the Commission at its meeting later that day.

At 11:00 a.m. the meeting was adjourned and a meeting of the Commission's Fundraising Work Group commenced.