



---

## Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission

*Senator Jennifer L. McClellan, Chair*

---

Senate Committee Room A, Pocahontas Building  
Richmond, Virginia

Tuesday, July 17, 2018  
2:00 P.M.

### SUMMARY

Senator Jennifer McClellan, chair of the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission (the Commission) called the meeting to order.

#### **Emancipation Proclamation and Freedom Monument Updates**

##### *Fabrication Documents, Pedestal Portraits and Text, and Monument Name*

Fabrication documents for the Emancipation Proclamation and Freedom Monument (the Monument) were sent to the Commission on June 25, 2018, by the Monument's artist, Jay Warren, and its contractor, Four Winds Design. The documents detailed structural engineering plans, pedestal text, and relief images for the Monument. The fabrication documents were the first deliverable required in the Commission's contract with Jay Warren, which was signed and effective on June 13, 2018.

The Virginians on the Monument Work Group (the Work Group), which met prior to the Commission meeting, recommended several changes to the pedestal text and design presented in the fabrication documents. The changes included lengthening the biographies of the 10 individuals represented on the Monument's base (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), adding birth and death dates next to the name of each individual, revising the Monument's south pedestal text to include historical context and a dedication, and adjusting the hairstyles depicted in the relief portraits for Gabriel and Nat Turner. The Commission reviewed and approved the Work Group's recommendations.

The Commission also approved the recommendation from the Work Group to remove "Proclamation" from the Monument's name, renaming it the Emancipation and Freedom Monument, in light of the Monument's focus on the struggles of African American Virginians to secure their own freedom.

The Commission voted to approve the fabrication documents with the accepted changes.

##### *Construction and Installation Timeline*

The chair presented to the Commission a tentative timeline for the Monument's construction and installation, based on the schedule provided in Exhibit C of the contract with Jay Warren.

As outlined in the contract, the Commission paid the artist \$127,000 upon receipt of the fabrication documents. The next deliverable, the Monument's schematic design documents, is anticipated by November and requires approval by the Commission. As the Commission will likely not meet until December, members voted to delegate authority to the chair to approve the schematic design documents.

Based on the timeline, the artist will have life-size models of the Monument figures ready for presentation to the Commission by December. Completion of the full project is anticipated by October 2019.

#### *Updates on Fundraising Strategy*

The chair updated members on the July 10 meeting of the Fundraising Work Group. Members of the Fundraising Work Group planned strategies to approach potential donors, connect with statewide organizations, reach out to media, and host fundraising events.

The Valentine in Richmond has included maquettes of the Monument in its exhibit "Monumental: Richmond's Monuments" and has offered space in the museum for the Commission to host a fundraising event. Members tentatively planned for a fundraising event to take place at the Valentine in September.

The Commission has already begun to receive donations through its fiscal agent, the Virginia Capitol Foundation, with a tentative goal of raising \$500,000 to cover Monument expenses outside of the funds allotted to the Commission by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

#### **Proposal for 2019 Joint Resolution Acknowledging Victims of Lynching**

The chair presented a proposal from Zann Nelson to put forth a memorial resolution in the 2019 legislative session recognizing the victims of lynching in the Commonwealth. To approach and consider the issue, Commission members agreed to form a new work group, the History of Lynching in Virginia Work Group, with members to be appointed from among the members of Commission and its work groups as well as from among local historians and educators with expertise in Virginia's lynching history. The new work group's purpose, in addition to drafting a resolution, will be to research and compile the names and stories of victims of lynching, to create programmatic outreach in the state, and to bring awareness of the history to communities in Virginia.

#### **King in Virginia Project Updates**

The King in Virginia Project has completed five Beloved Community Conversations in 2018 in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination, held in locations in Virginia that Dr. King visited. The first was held in Richmond at Virginia Union University on March 1, the second in Charlottesville at the University of Virginia on March 13, the third in Farmville at First Baptist Church on April 24, the fourth in Williamsburg at First Baptist Church on June 6, and the fifth in Danville at High Street Baptist Church on July 11. The Beloved Community Conversations, focused on the theme of Dr. King's final book, *Where Do We Go from Here*, featured panel discussions examining where each community is today in achieving Dr. King's vision of a Beloved Community. The programs were livestreamed and recorded by WCVE PBS.

Upcoming programs are planned for Suffolk on July 24, Lynchburg on August 1, and Hampton on September 26, with additional dates to be scheduled in Hopewell, Newport News, Norfolk, and Petersburg. The Commission intends to summarize actions to be taken in working toward Dr. King's Beloved Community, as identified in the panel discussions, in its 2018 annual report.

#### **Next Meeting Date**

The Commission's next meeting was tentatively planned for December, when life-size models of the Emancipation and Freedom Monument figures are anticipated to be ready for approval.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.