

Fairfax County 250th Commission
November 29, 2023, 1-2:30 pm
Fairfax City Library, Conference Rooms A & B
10360 North Street, Fairfax

Approved Meeting Minutes

Attendance

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| Christopher Barbuschak | Virginia Room, Fairfax County Library | Present |
| Joyce Gray Bellamy | Providence District | Absent |
| Elliot B. Bell-Krasner | Human Rights Commission | Present |
| Matt Briney | GW Mount Vernon | Present |
| Gretchen Bulova | History Commission | Absent |
| Brent Feito | The Army Historical Foundation | Remote |
| The Honorable Michael R. Frey | Sully District | Present |
| Paul Kohlenberger | Springfield District | Remote |
| Patrick Lennon | Visit Fairfax | Absent |
| Elizabeth Maurer | National Museum of the US Army | Present |
| Subhi A. Mehdi | Dranesville District | Present |
| Garrett McGuire | At-large, Chairman Appointee | Remote |
| Suzanne Moffitt | Hunter Mill District | Present |
| Nancy Rosenbaum | Mount Vernon District | Absent |
| Beverly A. Schlotterbeck | Mason District | Present |
| Nancy Simmons | Braddock District | Present |
| Scott Stroh | Gunston Hall | Absent |
| Ashley Morris | CEO Celebrate Fairfax | Present |
| Trinity Yansick | Celebrate Fairfax | Absent |
| Laura Grape | Park Authority, Resource Management Division Director | Absent |
| Denice Dressel | Heritage Resources, Department of Planning & Development | Absent |
| Megan Leining | City of Fairfax, Historic Resources Specialist | Present |
| Megan Riley | Department of Planning & Development | Present |
| Stephanie Newman | Department of Planning & Development | Present |
| Tammy Mannarino | Commission nominee | Present |
| Jeff Thomas | Member of the public | Present |
| VACANT | George Mason University | |
| VACANT | History Commission | |
| VACANT | Franconia District | |

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Bell-Krasner called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm and acknowledged that a quorum was present. Secretary Ms. Simmons also was present. Everyone present introduced themselves. Mr. Feito, Mr. Kohlenberger, and Mr. McGuire participated remotely from Lovettsville, McLean, and Alexandria, respectively. Mr. Briney made a motion to confirm that members present could hear the remote participants and they could hear us. Ms. Simmons seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote without dissension.

Approval of September 2023 Minutes

Mr. Bell-Krasner noted that the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting and asked for comments or corrections. Ms. Simmons suggested that the references to the September minutes of the committee chairs meeting be deleted because no minutes had been provided for that meeting. Ms. Mehdi moved that we approve the minutes with the change suggested by Ms. Simmons. Ms. Schlotterbeck seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by voice vote without dissension.

Committee Reports

Finance

No report.

Inclusion

Mr. Bell-Krasner reported that his committee had not been able to meet because it could not attain a quorum.

Outreach

Ms. Simmons reiterated that the list of contacts created by her committee is on the Google drive and had been sent by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to all of the supervisors. She asked that the representatives from the magisterial districts contact their respective supervisor's office to see if additional groups could be identified. Ms. Subhi asked if they should contact the current ones or the newly-elected ones and Ms. Simmons suggested that the current staff might have more knowledge of groups in the districts, but either would work. Several members indicated problems in accessing the Google drive containing the outreach spreadsheet and other documents, and they asked for the link to be resent. There was some confusion about whether the Outreach Committee would be responsible for contacting the people on the list or if that would fall to the other committees. Also, it is not clear how commission emails would be done because we only have our personal emails at the present time. Further discussion of this was deferred to the Committee Chairs group. Mr. Feito indicated that he had fixed some of the access issues during the discussion.

Activity

Ms. Moffitt reported that her committee had planned to meet in early November, but was unable to do so because a quorum was not present. She summarized the committee's plans from previous meetings.

Marketing

In the absence of the chair, Mr. Briney and Mr. Barbuschak mentioned several Fairfax County organizations with which they are beginning to coordinate. Ms. Simmons asked them to check the names on the Outreach list to see if their contacts might replace names already there or be added to the list.

Signature Event

Ms. Morris reported that the committee was continuing to reach out to organizations across the county to identify planned events.

Youth and Family Engagement

Ms. Maurer reported that her committee had met on October 19, 2023 at the Thomas Jefferson Library. Representatives from the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Fairfax County Public Schools, and PTAs attended. The Boy Scouts offered to help by providing color guards at events. The Girl Scouts are having their national assembly in DC in 2026. The schools asked that they get requests from a single, coordinated point of contact and indicated an interest in having resources and tool kits identified for their use. It was mentioned that Colonial Williamsburg at history.org has resources available that might be relevant. Ms. Mehdi suggested reaching out to places of worship because they have youth groups and may expand the diversity of the committee. Ms. Maurer felt that the committee was not quite ready to hold community meetings. After some discussion, it was noted that the Activity, Youth and Family, and Inclusion Committees need to coordinate closely and this should be a topic discussed at the Committee Chairs meeting.

Committee Chairs

There was much confusion over the meeting dates of this group. Mr. Bell-Krasner agreed that moving forward, he would take the lead on scheduling the group's meetings. The chairs present acknowledged that they had received the meeting invitation sent by Ms. Bulova for December 15, 2023 at 10 am at the Visit Fairfax office. The minutes of the October meeting are attached to these minutes. The November 16, 2023, meeting was canceled due to lack of a quorum.

Old Business: Approval of FY2025 Budget Proposal

Ms. Bulova had prepared the budget proposal, which was discussed at the last meeting. The proposal was submitted, but needed to be officially endorsed by the Commission. After minimal discussion based on the minutes of the September meeting, Ms. Mehdi moved to retroactively approve the budget request for fiscal year 2025. Ms. Moffitt seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote without dissension.

New Business

Mr. Briney mentioned that the Virginia 250 organization had launched a website through which localities could request their mobile museum to visit, with an anticipated Fall 2024 launch. Ms. Leining noted that these were early requests that would be used to determine the path of the vehicle throughout Virginia. Ms. Morris agreed that the Signature Events Committee would take the lead and coordinate with the Activity Committee on proposing dates and places to request.

Strategic Discussion

At the last meeting, Mr. Stroh had reported that he, Ms. Dressel, and the County Attorney's office had held discussions on how the financial transactions related to the commission can/will be handled. The plan included a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Visit Fairfax for them to hold and be responsible for funds allocated to the commission's work. However, before the MOU could be finalized, the County Attorney's office wanted to understand how privately raised funds would be handled. One opportunity presented was to have private funds go through the Northern Virginia Community Foundation.

The commission members had no objection to working with the Northern Virginia Community Foundation; however, it would take time to explore this possibility. And there was consensus among those present that there was increasing urgency in having access to the funds that had already been allocated through the county. Mr. Briney noted that a Visit Fairfax Board meeting was scheduled for December 12, 2023; and the MOU could be considered by them at that meeting if it was received in time. He suggested that maybe the MOU with Visit Fairfax could be written to have them handle only county funds. Consequently, Ms. Simmons moved that the Commission recommend to the county attorney to execute two MOUs, if needed, one with the organization that would handle the county funds and another with an organization to handle private funds. Ms. Schlotterbeck seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote without dissension.

Open Forum / Q&A

Ms. Morris and others expressed concern that we are using personal devices and emails to conduct our business and may need to establish business-related ones. Other concerns included access to and security of documents that need to be accessible to everyone on the Commission. This was another topic that the Committee Chairs felt they should cover in their next meeting.

Mr. Bell-Krasner mentioned that Dr. Colleen Shogan, Archivist of the United States, will be joining us at the May 22, 2024, meeting at the George Washington Presidential Library. He hopes that we also could get a photograph of the Commission members at that meeting.

Adjourn

Mr. Briney moved that the meeting be adjourned and Ms. Medhi seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote without dissent and the meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Attachments

Fairfax 250th Commission FY 2025 Budget Proposal
Committee Chairs Meeting Minutes from October 16, 2023
Youth and Family Engagement Meeting Minutes from October 19, 2023

Respectfully Submitted by Nancy A. Simmons, Secretary, approved on January 22, 2024

DATE: September 28, 2023
TO: Christina Jackson, Director, Department of Management and Budget
FROM: Scott Stroh, Fairfax County 250th Commission Chairman
SUBJECT: FY 2025 Fairfax County 250th Commission Budget Request

In anticipation of the July 4, 2026 250th anniversary of the nation, the Board of Supervisors formally appointed a Fairfax County 250th Commission in July 2021. The goals of this Commission include researching, creating, and implementing a community-based Commemoration in partnership with the Virginia250 Commission and regional organizations.

An initial \$20,000 in financial support was provided to the Fairfax County 250th Commission in FY2023, with \$150,000 budgeted in FY2024. Financial stewardship of these funds is through Visit Fairfax as specified in an MOU, pending as September 28, 2023, between Visit Fairfax and Fairfax County. It is anticipated that the \$170,000 will be used for website domain names and online content to support the commemoration, printed informational rack cards, branded outreach materials and targeted marketing campaigns and initiatives, a wide-ranging array of public programs involving historic, artistic, and diverse community leaders, and community engagement initiatives seeking input and participation from all the wonderfully diverse neighborhoods throughout Fairfax County. These initial funds will be expended by June 30, 2024.

Additional funding for the conclusion of the 250th commemoration will be needed in FY2025 and in FY2026 leading up to climax of the July 2026 activities being planned nationwide. The Commission will explore grant and other private funding opportunities in support of the commemoration effort

The FY2025 budget request by the Fairfax County 250th Commission to Fairfax County is for \$150,000 to support a county-wide 250th Commemoration “Signature Experience.”

The Fairfax County 250th Commemoration Signature Experience consists of a branded mobile outreach and educational program that will be featured at the numerous community events and festivals throughout the County – between September 2025 through July 2026. Funds will support the design, fabrication, and implementation of the mobile display as well as fund the necessary staff, commemoration materials, and festival booth fees needed to successfully engage all communities throughout Fairfax County.

Looking ahead to FY2026, additional programmatic and marketing materials will be needed for the 2026 commemoration year.

Cc: Denice Dressel, Principal Heritage Resources (staff liaison)
Gretchen Bulova, Fairfax County History Commission representative
Patrick Lennon, Visit Fairfax

Fairfax 250 Committee Chair Meeting

10/16/23

2pm-3:30pm

In Attendance: Patrick Lennon, Ashley Morris, Gretchen Bulova, Suzanne Moffit

Absent: Elliott Bell-Krasner, Nancy Simmons, Elizabeth Maurer

Guest: Scott Stroh

First order of business brought up by Ashley Morris was that it would be extremely helpful to have Scott ask for support from the County for the Signature Experience being coordinated by Celebrate Fairfax. Typically the organization is at the beck and call of all the Supervisors and has to respond accordingly. By having the County understand that they would be focused on this multiyear event for the better part of the next few years would alleviate them of the expectation of the Supervisors that they could take on any additional significant amount of work. Scott agreed to pursue this. Ashley also offered for The Parc venue to be the “home” of Fairfax 250 (for storage, RV parking/showcasing, etc.)

Second order of business was for Scott to follow up with the County to determine the hangup regarding the already allocated funding for the 250th. This is a major hindrance on us being able to proceed with planning and purchasing of necessary materials and items to support our efforts. Discussion ensued on who within the County to approach and Scott thought it best to start with his supervisor which is Supervisor Storck.

Third order of business was for Ashley to work with the group to specifically define what the Signature Experience would look like at each potential venue/festival/event. Gretchen felt that this would allow for us to better estimate needed supplies and costs for each type of location. Proper attention needs to be given to this sooner rather than later as this will directly tie into the marketing budget supporting those experiences, and also the upcoming meetings with the neighborhood event planners/hosts where we discuss what our presence could/should be at each location.

Fourth order of business was to further define each committees’ purpose and action items, and associate due dates and deliverable to keep us all on track to execute our plan as originally intended. Crossover to-do items between different committees is still prevalent and each group having their own items and deadlines to produce them would alleviate some of this confusion.

Attending members determined that November 16 at 10am in the Visit Fairfax boardroom would be the best date/time for our next meeting based on everyone’s availability of those who were present.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Patrick Lennon

**Fairfax County, VA Semiquincentennial Commission
 Youth & Family Engagement Committee
 Public Meeting**

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| Date | <p>Thursday, October 19, 2023, 3 p.m.</p> <p>held in person at the Thomas Jefferson Library in Falls Church as well as on-line at the Zoom link</p> |
| Attendees | <p>Elizabeth Maurer, Jen Dubina, Craig Perrier, Deborah March, Rob Kerr, Nancy Simmons, Eric Bullock, Sharon Cantrall, Debbie Kilpatrick</p> <p>Minutes taken by Jen Dubina</p> |
| Agenda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Nation at 250 - The nation's 250th anniversary scope ● Fairfax County - Our county's efforts ● Youth & Families - Engaging youth and families |
| <i>The Nation at 250</i> | <p>America 250 established by Congress in 2016 to plan and orchestrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. Members are appointed by Congress.</p> <p>States have set up their own 250th Commissions. Some are more advanced than others.</p> <p>https://america250.org/about-america250/</p> |
| <i>American Association for State and Local History</i> | <p>www.aaslh.org</p> <p>AASLH has taken a leading role in producing resources to help prepare for America's 250th. Encouraging groups to focus on the principles of the Revolution rather than specific events.</p> <p>Revolutionary ideals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Who is America? ● The unfinished revolution ● The power of place ● We the people ● American experience ● Doing History |

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| | <p>BSA saw alignment in the merit badges Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, and American Heritage.</p> |
| <p><i>Virginia 250</i></p> | <p>https://va250.org</p> <p>Virginia American Revolution 250 was established in 2020. The commonwealth's commission is working to establish local commissions throughout Virginia. The Fairfax Commission is an outcome of this effort.</p> <p>The road to revolution has become. Many organizations are already posting their events to the website. Example: There will be a public reading of the Fairfax Resolves in the City of Alexandria in July 2024.</p> <p>How do people find out about events?</p> |
| <p><i>Fairfax County</i></p> | <p>https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/historic/250-workgroup</p> <p>Authorized on July 27, 2021 with the purpose for organizing and leading County-wide efforts for an inclusive observance, celebration, and commemoration of the Semiquincentennial anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the Independence of the United States of America.</p> <p>County is focused on 1775 and 1776 commemoration. The committee will embrace the include history and narrative breadth of the era and mark the origins of a revolutionary new nation.</p> <p>Virginia's history is America's story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Virginia is a powerfully historical place, home to sites and stories essential to our American story. ● Here in Virginia, the American Revolution was a war, and more than a war. ● The Revolutionary challenge continues. ● We can tell our history to reflect the fullest American story. <p>The Group Report and Recommendations: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/sites/planning-development/files/assests/documents/historic/250-workinggroup/250-Work-Group-Report.pdf</p> |
| <p><i>Youth & Family Engagement</i></p> | <p>How can youth and families be brought into the fold?</p> <p><i>How to participate?</i></p> <p>Participation v. Contribution. How can a larger institution participate? It is easy to disseminate information but harder to contribute meaningfully.</p> <p>Don't want to put pressure on groups to do something. If something compliments what you are already doing - great. Don't want to force participation or stage</p> |

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| | <p>something on your own.</p> <p><i>What would be useful to other groups?</i></p> <p>Toolkits - Toolkits for students to help them make sense of the themes in their own families and to foster dialogue at home.</p> <p>The PTA is all about families. A toolkit would be helpful. Like to have things packaged to modify as needed. Make sure toolkits are translated into different languages.</p> <p>Toolkits meet people where they are. Training would be needed to help facilitate the dialogue that the toolkits would be encouraging.</p> <p><i>Diversity</i></p> <p>What efforts are being made to make the commission and committee more diverse and inclusive? Have we thought about churches, youth groups, the NAACP? Special Education PTA.</p> <p>There are 3 vacancies on the Fairfax County Commission if there is someone you know, we can recommend them to the Board of Supervisors. We can't appoint committee members but we can make recommendations.</p> |
| <i>Discussion</i> | BSA can use their connection to serve. Typically are asked to help with event set up and take down. There is also a lot of Merit Badge connection. At the very least they can disseminate information. |
| <i>Next Meeting</i> | January. Liz will coordinate a date and time. Location: John R. Lewis High School |

Action Items

| Person | Action | Date Due |
|---------|--|----------|
| Liz/Jen | Invite additional groups to the committee focused on being more inclusive and diverse. | |
| Liz | Request from FCPS for an educational toolkit | |