

## FALLS CHURCH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

### Minutes of Meeting Oak Room, City Hall Thursday, 28 January 2016

**Present:** Ron Anzalone (chairman), Kelli Edwards, Ed Henderson II (vice-chair), and Dennis Warner (secretary). Also present: Debra Gee (staff liaison) and Tiffanie Chau-Dang (youth representative).

#### 1. **Call to Order**

The meeting started at 8:00 pm.

#### 2. **Minutes of the Historical Commission Meeting of 19 November 2015.**

The minutes were approved with minor corrections.

#### 3. **Welcome to Kelli Edwards**

Chairman Anzalone welcomed Kelli Edwards to the Historical Commission. Ms Edwards has now been sworn in, and she is happy to be joining the Commission. She has a long-standing interest in history, particularly in the Civil War and events like Civil War Day.

#### 4. **Expressions of Thanks to Adelaide P. Wang and Dennis Warner**

R. Anzalone circulated a draft certificate of appreciation to be given to Adelaide (Midge) Wang by the City Council at a future City Council meeting recognizing her more than 20 years (Nov 1994 – Aug 2015) of active involvement with the Historical Commission. Midge retired from the Historical Commission in August 2015. The Commission members agreed with publicly acknowledging Midge's long service to Falls Church, and will also look into preparing an Honorary Life Membership nomination to the Historical Commission.

R. Anzalone also thanked Dennis Warner for his service with the Commission; Dennis has been a Commission member since 2002, and served as Secretary since 2005. Dennis and his wife are moving to Gaithersburg, Maryland in February, so he will no longer be able to serve. Commission members wished him well.

#### **Old Business**

##### 1. **W&OD Trail Plan (revised)**

There will be an Open House on Saturday, January 30, 10:00 am-12:00 noon in City Hall to present the proposed plan for the W&OD Trail in the City. The revised plan is on line on the City website. The Historical Commission previously met with planning staff on this and submitted comments, several of which (concerning opportunities for historical interpretation) have been incorporated into the revised plan. R. Anzalone indicated that he felt no additional comments were needed.

##### 2. **Historical Time Line, The Lincoln at Tinner Hill**

Plans for the African-American heritage trail project along South Washington St. near the Tinner Hill Civil Rights arch are moving ahead; historical events and dates will be carved into paving stones along the sidewalk flanking The Lincoln at Tinner Hill. Assistant City Manager Cindy

Mester has been facilitating discussions, and the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation and the Arts & Humanities Council have been working with the City of Falls Church and the developer to work out the details. R. Anzalone had provided extensive comments on the content, as has E. Henderson in his Tinner Hill capacity. Project completion is estimated for September 2016.

### **3. Christian Science Reading Room**

R. Anzalone reported that following initial investigation of possible historic structure designation for the Christian Science Reading Room on Little Falls Street (designed by well-known restoration architect Milton Griggs), an exchange of letters between the City Manager and the Board of Directors of the Christian Science Reading Room has clarified that the City will not pursue such designation for the Reading Room. No decision has yet been made on the future of the building, but discussions have been underway about joint redevelopment between the Christian Science group and the developer of the corner parcel at Little Falls Street and West Broad Street. While several local entities have expressed interest in moving and reusing the building if it were to be demolished, its masonry construction might make relocation difficult or prohibitively expensive.

### **4. Status of Marker Request – 610 Fulton Avenue (now 302 North Lee Street)**

R. Anzalone reported that he has forwarded proposed text for a possible historical marker in front of 302 North Lee Street (now 610 Fullerton Avenue), the former Schefer School. The owner has requested such a marker. In his e-mail to Jim Snyder, head of the City's Development Services, R. Anzalone urged the City to ensure that any marker erected at the site should be at the expense of the owner of the property and should state that the house is now a reconstruction after most of the original fabric was removed during redevelopment. A revised draft of the proposed text for the marker was circulated to the members, who expressed approval.

### **5. Other Pending Issues**

R. Anzalone said that the Arts & Humanities Council (formerly known as "C.A.T.C.H.") is seeking additional funds for new markers in the City. He urged the Commission to consider priorities for new historical markers so that the Commission can suggest installations when requested.

## **New Business**

**1. Tinner Hill Marker.** E. Henderson reported that a historical marker for Tinner Hill is missing; D. Gee suggested that it might be in the City property yard. E. Henderson will look into this (with D. Gee's assistance) and see if it can be found and reinstalled at Tinner Hill.

### **2. Historic District Designation, Tinner Hill (Fairfax County)**

E. Henderson circulated plat maps of the proposed Tinner Hill Historic District in Fairfax County. Most of the structures shown on the map are at least 100 years old. The area is partly in Falls Church city, but mostly in Fairfax County, and Fairfax County has approved designation of the county portion as a historic district. R. Anzalone has copies of the historic district nomination package describing the history, significance, and status of properties in the district. R. Anzalone suggested that the Historical Commission look at the City portion, confirm the certification status of the remaining properties, and see whether further recognition by the City is warranted.

### **3. Election of Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary)**

The Historical Commission unanimously approved the following officers for 2016:

Chair	Ron Anzalone
Vice Chair	Ed Henderson
Secretary	Kelli Edwards

### **Coming Events**

- 1. A Harlem Renaissance Fair** is scheduled for 19 February 2016 at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale campus. This is a new initiative for the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation for Black History Month. The fair will honor African-Americans of the jazz era; there will be a jazz orchestra; actors in period dress; and a one-man play by David Mills on the life and poetry of Langston Hughes.
- 2. Civil War Day** is scheduled for 21 May 2016.
- 3. The Tinner Hill Blues Festival** is scheduled for 10-12 June 2016.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.