**DRAFT MINUTES**

**COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL STATUES IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL**

**January 4, 2023, 10:00 a.m.**

Virginia Museum of History & Culture, Reynolds Leadership Center – 2nd Floor

428 N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard, Richmond

**Held virtually via Webex**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

Senator Louise Lucas

Delegate Jeion Ward

Dr. Edward Ayers

Dr. Colita Fairfax

Ms. Margie Vanderhye

Ms. Julie Langan, Ex Officio

Members not in attendance:

Chief Anne Richardson

Dr. Fred Motley

DHR Staff:

Stephanie Williams

Jennifer Pullen

Jolene Smith

Sculptor:

Steven Weitzman

**ATTENDEES:**

Robert Johns

Sydney Trent

Scott Elmquist

Cam Thompson

Ian Stewart

Joan Cobbs

Brian Grogan

Ed Jackson, Jr.

Ernest Johns

Kristopher Goad

Daniel Min

Derrick Humphries

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lucas called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Ms. Williams took attendance by roll call. Chair Lucas asked members, staff, guests and press to introduce themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

Chair Lucas asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Ayers made the motion. Ms. Vanderhye seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE JULY 21, 2022 MINUTES**

Chair Lucas asked for a motion to approve the July 21, 2022 minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Vanderhye. Dr. Ayers seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF VIRTUAL MEETING POLICY**

Chair Lucas asked for a motion to approve the virtual meeting policy. A motion was made by Ms. Vanderhye. Dr. Fairfax seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robert Johns, brother of Barbara Johns, thanked the Commission and asked that the family be involved with process.

Brian Grogan, author of *A Little Child Shall Lead Them* spoke about the struggles of school desegregation in Prince William County. And the climate within which Barbara Rose Johns staged her walkout.

**INTRODUCTION OF SELECTED SCULPTOR**

Chair Lucas introduced the sculptor, Steven Weitzman, stating that he was the unanimous choice of the Commission. She then invited him to make comments.

Steven Weitzman thanked the Commission and expressed deep gratitude for the honor of having been selected and spoke of Barbara Rose John’s role in launching the Civil Rights Movement as a child. He affirmed his commitment to work with the Johns family to achieve a good likeness of the subject.

**UPDATE/NEXT STEPS**

Ms. Langan updates and identifies next steps. She reported that the Governor had approved the request to carry forward the appropriated funds. She also reported that she and Mr. Weitzman had been consulting with the Curator of the US Capitol and are scheduled to meet with her on site on January 10. See PowerPoint.

**WORK SESSION**

The Commission and Mr. Weitzman discussed the pose, lectern, expression, the book held overhead and the books beneath the stage floor.

Commission members discussed the desirability of directing viewers of the statue to additional information, possibly through use of a QR code.

There was a brief discussion of dedication ceremony focused on the venue within the Capitol.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Lucas called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chair Ward made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Fairfax. The motion passed unanimously.

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:47 p.m.**

**Meeting materials as well as a recording of the meeting are available at https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/uscapitolcommission/**