

Ralph Bunche Advisory Committee

July 13, 2022

3 p.m. – Tour of Ralph Bunche High School building

4:15p.m. Reconvenes at UMW-D

~ Members present during Tour:

Chair Renee Parker, Vice Chair Claudette Jordon, Secretary Phyllis Cook, Annie Cupka, Cathy Binder, Nick Minor, Chris Clarke, Cathy Cutright, Terri Rinko, Mike Hubbard, and Stephanie Burch. Also present: Cathy Dyson and photographer Tristan from Free-Lance Star.

~ Members present at University of Mary Washington – Dahlgren (UMW-D):

Chair Renee Parker, Vice Chair Claudette Jordon, Secretary Phyllis Cook, Annie Cupka, Cathy Binder, Nick Minor, Cathy Cutright, Terri Rinko, Stephanie Burch, Mike Hubbard, Shannon Tolliver, Pegi Wright, Tameka Heyward (remote).

~ Absent: Cristina Turdean, Lisa Hull.

Discussion of Tour

During the tour, members started out together, then smaller groups lingered, with discussions taking place along the way as the tour proceeded through the historic original section of the building completed in 1949, the 1957 addition, the ancillary building, and around the exteriors of the two buildings.

~ Chair Renee Parker reconvened the meeting at UMW-D at 4:20 p.m.

Distribution of Minutes of June 22, 2022, Meeting

Renee suggested that due to time constraints, group review of the minutes would not take place, with members asked to review and send suggested changes to Secretary Phyllis Cook.

FOIA Update/Reminders

Renee noted that meetings are open to the public and requested subcommittee chairs to email notice of time/date/location of their meetings to her as they are scheduled. She will relay that notice to her assigned County contact for posting as appropriate on the County website.

Members were instructed to NOT 'reply to all' on emails when chairs send out emails to the membership. Members agreed to Renee's suggestion to add a Public Comment period the beginning of all meetings.

Identification of Subcommittee Chairs/Note-Takers

~ Business Plan – Chris Clarke is Chair and Stephanie Burch is Note-Taker, with Annie Cupka, Shannon Tolliver, Cathy Binder, Mike Hubbard, Cathy Cutright, Claudette Jordon, Nick Minor and Lisa Hull.

~ Marketing/Communications – Phyllis Cook is Chair and Renee Parker is Note-Taker, with Annie Cupka, Tameeka Heyward, Shannon Tolliver, and Claudette Jordon.

~ Fundraising/Grants – Annie Cupka is Chair and Nick Minor is Note-Taker, with Terri Rinko, Chris Clarke, Nick Minor, Lisa Hull, Shannon Tolliver, Claudette Jordon, and Cristina Turdean.

~ Museum/Historical – Claudette Jordon is Chair and Mike Hubbard is Note-Taker, with Cathy Binder, Cristina Turdean, Mike Hubbard, Cathy Cutright, Lisa Hull, Tameeka Heyward, and Phyllis Cook.

Meetings Schedules/Communications/Notes

Renee said chairs of subcommittees will initiate meeting scheduling, with the expectation they would meet once a month. She asked chairs to try to schedule subcommittee meetings in the first two weeks

following the monthly Advisory Committee meeting, so notes can be finalized for dissemination at the larger Advisory Committee meetings.

Mission Statement

Renee asked for suggestions for amendments to the Mission Statement. There was consensus for Annie's suggestion that the word 'Centre' remain in the title, for now. Renee said she would keep the topic on each upcoming agenda as a reminder that suggested changes will continue to be accepted.

Update on Abandoned School Revitalization Zone

Nick had emailed a draft ordinance following the last meeting to get feedback from committee members. He said creating this type of zone by action of the Board of Supervisors is under consideration by numerous other localities. Enacting such an ordinance would provide an additional plus on grant applications.

He asked members to consider upper or lower thresholds in the draft for investors who wish to play a role in development of the building and/or property. All amounts will be reconsidered by members of the Board of Supervisors prior to its action. The draft ordinance contains various types of uses that may be allowed to take place in such a zone. Members agreed college and university uses could be added, in addition to agricultural-type education or assistance.

Update on Grant Applications

Annie said the draft ordinance to establish an Abandoned School Revitalization Zone is on a fast track to enable approval by the County Board prior to the August 19 deadline for submission of the Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) grant application for \$1M, so that the new Revitalization Zone can be included. She also said she was developing a chart to indicate all the various upcoming grants for which the County is eligible to apply for the Ralph Bunche project, to enable tracking grant opportunities as they proceed. A National Park Service grant for \$500,000 is expected to open in the fall and close in the winter timeframe, for which Annie is optimistic about possibly receiving a second grant from the same agency, which previously awarded \$500,000 for roof replacement for the Ralph Bunche building.

She said there are a few others, including a new one, the Virginia Black and Indigenous People of Color Historic Preservation Fund (BIPOC), which was established with \$5M in funding. Grant guidelines are under development, but Annie said the upper limit for grant requests might be set at about \$500K to allow for lots of eligible grant applicants to receive funding.

She said there were several earmarks and various funds that were established in the state's 'caboose' budget to deal with a state surplus. She added that Westmoreland County had received \$1M in an earmark to go toward Stratford Hall, which had been put into the budget by state Senator Richard Stuart (who also represents King George). She said requesting a similar earmark for the Ralph Bunche project could be considered in the future.

Annie mentioned another grant called the Commonwealth History Fund, funded by Dominion Energy, which has pledged up to \$400K per year, to be administered by the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, intended for meaningful history education and preservation projects that can be used for restoration, rehabilitation, building and construction projects, along with landscaping, conservation, and other infrastructure improvements. Annie said that grant could also be a potential grant source for up to \$100,000 to go toward Ralph Bunche.

Renee asked if the county had enough staff to keep up with development of upcoming grant applications and Annie said she was monitoring that closely and she had made herself available with her own grant-

writing expertise. Renee noted that several committee members who were also grant savvy are also available, perhaps to work on sections of grants.

Annie also said she was working up a fundraising matrix, saying there are a lot of other ways to raise money, in addition to grant-writing and private investors. For example, the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association (RBAA) is a non-profit and is registered on the "Candid" website, which used to be called "GuideStar." In that way individuals, organizations or businesses who wish to donate can do so, knowing those listed on the site have already been vetted as legitimate.

RBAA is also on www.smile.amazon.com where purchasers can sign up so that one-half of one percent of the purchase price is automatically donated to the non-profit for which they have signed up, which comes out of Amazon money and does not add to the cost for customers.

Annie said there were lots of examples of legitimate crowd-funding to raise various amounts, which only require some up-front work to set it in motion. Another example would be to list your non-profit on Facebook and setup a donation account. Also, "Giving Tuesday" is the Tuesday after "Black Friday" following Thanksgiving in November and sometimes Facebook does fundraisers for non-profits where Facebook will match up to a certain amount raised by the organization during a specific timeframe.

Next Meeting Date/Time/Location

Renee stated the next meeting is 3-4:30pm on Wednesday, August 10, at UMW-D.

All whole-group Advisory Committee meetings will take place on the second Wednesdays of each month at UMW-D until further notice.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.