

## Minutes

**Manassas Historic Resources Board**  
**March 7, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**City Hall – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Rob Fisher at 7:30 p.m.

### **Determination of a Quorum:**

A majority of the board is present.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Dave Button, Lyshawn Dean, Rob Fisher, Joe Hanlin, Robert Keller, Steve Thomas, Don Wilson

**Honorary Board Members in Attendance:** Suzanne Parker

**Board Members Absent:** Mike Lewis, Mark Olsen

**City Council Member Liaison:** Ken Elston, Council Member –Present

**Museum Staff in Attendance:** Kisha Wilson-Sogunro, Parks, Culture & Recreation Manager, Jean Griffith, Administrative Associate

**Community Development Staff:** Elizabeth Via-Gossman, Director of Community Development

### **Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2017**

Joe Hanlin moved to approve the minutes as written, and Dave Button seconded the motion. The chairman opened the floor for discussion. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Chair's Comments:**

Rob Fisher welcomed everyone. He said that he had visited Liberia and was pleased with how well outdoor site work is coming along.

**Council Comments:** Council Member Elston reported on the unveiling of the sign for Liberty Street and what a nice event it was. The trust that had requested demolition of two historical homes on the street plans to put them on the market. If they are not sold within a year they can then be demolished. With regard to the budget, Council Member Elston recognized the importance of the museum and of creating a larger venue for the public. He reported that the Council had toured city sites, including the museum, and that it was good for members to see the condition of historic sites and the space needs of the museum.

### **Museum System Director's Report:**

Elizabeth Via-Gossman commented on the recent successful unveiling of the Liberty Street sign recognizing the African American history of the area, and apologized for forgetting to send out the invitation to the board. Ms. Via-Gossman introduced Kisha Wilson-Sogunro, the new Culture and

Recreation division manager, to the board. Recreation Supervisor Christen Zenich is also moving to the museum as part of the consolidation into the new Culture and Recreation division.

Also in progress are new revamped webpages coming on April 1 for the Culture and Recreation division. The museum will now be the primary point of contact for parks reservations, giving the public seven days a week to reserve a park. The bathroom construction preparation at Liberia is continuing to move along. A design firm has been selected for the museum's immersion room, to be created in the current gallery, and the goal is to have it completed within a year. Any changes or improvements such as the immersion room are being created with the mindset that they can be picked up and moved to another location.

**Old Business:**

**Library/Museum Discussion – Elizabeth Via-Gossman**

Elizabeth Via-Gossman has met with the librarians from the county and reviewed the report that she was discussing with the board. County staff had a positive response to the study and the idea. Ms. Via-Gossman opened the floor for discussion. The board had a productive discussion on the pros and cons of the current study. The board's concerns include the size and shape of the exhibit area, and that the needs of other areas of the museum are also being considered. Ms. Via-Gossman addressed these concerns and stressed that the shape of the drawings is not a final design, but relates more to the sizing of the building. The next step in this process will include an exhibit design to feed into the needs of the exhibit gallery. Ms. Via-Gossman addressed these concerns, clarified the issues, and will relay these concerns to the study group.

**New Business:**

None

**Close of Business:**

Rob Fisher asked for any other business. No further business was brought forward.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

**Adjournment:**

Dave Button moved to adjourn the meeting and Don Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.

  
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Rob Fisher, Chairman

  
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Date