

Commission on the Establishment of a Maryland Educators Service Memorial

September 9, 2013

Minutes

The meeting was opened at 1:05p.m., by Senator DeGrange and Delegate Hixson.

Renee Spence, MSDE, provided an overview of the legislation. The Commission's charge is to discuss appropriate sites, estimate funding, consider preliminary designs and make initial recommendations concerning site location, design, funding and construction. The Commission is to make its initial recommendations to the General Assembly by December 2013.

Deputy Secretary Thomas from the Maryland Department of General Services introduced his team. Mark Schneidman, Office of Facilities Planning, began by discussing a typical process that could be followed. First, the Commission could begin by defining its "vision." It could consider any constraints on its budget. The Commission could discuss any symbolic goals that it would like incorporated into the memorial. Finally, the Commission could consider whether the memorial is to be a "destination" memorial or have a more casual approach.

Mr. Schneidman provided a hand-out with three local memorials: The Louis Goldstein Memorial, the Thurgood Marshall Memorial, and the WWII Memorial. The Louis Goldstein Memorial is a more casual approach memorial, took over 2 ½ years to complete, and cost about \$100,000. The Thurgood Marshall Memorial is more of a destination site, cost approximately \$300,000 for the statues, and over \$1 million for the complete site. The memorial was designed by a design competition. The statues were completed off-site and the installation took approximately 4 months.

The WWII Memorial is a large, destination memorial and overlooks the Severn River on a piece of property that is a gateway to Annapolis. The memorial cost \$2.6 million in design and construction costs. Construction took 10 months. This memorial is the result of an international design competition. The WWII Veterans Commission developed minimum requirements for the memorial that were then placed into a booklet for the design competition.

Mr. Schneidman recommended that the Commission begin by weighing three factors: site restrictions, funding availability, and design process. The Commission could begin by trying to identify what sites were available, or by articulating its vision for the memorial and then trying to match a site to the vision. With a clear vision, the Commission could hire a design professional directly to achieve that vision. Without a clear vision, the Commission could consider doing a design competition to allow the designers to create the vision.

Delegate Hixson asked about the Firemen's Memorial. This memorial was not managed by DGS. Private funds were probably used for this memorial and the land could have been private or managed

by an agency other than DGS. This memorial is not a destination memorial, is not readily accessible to foot-traffic and probably shouldn't serve as a model for our Commission.

Senator DeGrange asked if it didn't make the most sense to start with an identified site. In some instances this does make the most sense. However, for example, the WWII memorial took years to identify a site. Fund-raising and setting the vision was being done prior to identification of the site, but the design was done specific to the site.

Senator DeGrange asked if the Commission could consider a multiple use of an existing site. For instance, using the existing Thurgood Marshall site. This would be an excellent use of the site. However, the Commission needs to be certain that it is not damaging the integrity of the existing site and its vision and funding.

Theresa Dudley explained that children come to Annapolis on bus trips and have no place to eat lunch. She asked the Commission to consider a site that would allow children to be covered from the elements and to have a place to learn about public education in Maryland. She asked that the Commission have information on the number of children who visit the Capital each Session.

Wendy Scott-Napier, DGS, informed the Commission that prior to any site selection the State House Trust would need to be involved and give its approval. Also the Commission needed to be aware that in some instances the purchase of private property might be needed or the State might be required to obtain easements to the property.

She advised that two non-governmental sites might be the Green Street Elementary School and St. Johns College. She is not aware of any excess state property within the complex. However, the state is in the process of acquiring the Old Post Office Building. When asked about the Green Street property, she said this was a possibility because it is currently under construction and it is easier to introduce something new to the program when it is under construction.

Several Commission members asked about the possibility of a larger "memorial", something more interactive. Members discussed the purchase of a house or building. Representatives from DGS cautioned that a memorial of this type would be extremely expensive. It would require staffing and yearly maintenance.

Senator DeGrange cautioned the Commission that the legislation asked for a memorial. He cautioned that moving the discussion toward a larger interactive building might be outside of the scope of the charge. Renee Spence stated that she had spoken with staff when the legislation was passed. The intention was for a memorial, not an interactive building. Susie Jablinske agreed that the Commission needed to make certain that it didn't move so far beyond the scope of the proposed legislation that its recommendations could not be funded. Delegate Hixson asked everyone to remember "the art of the possible."

DGS will send a letter to the State House Trust requesting information about potential sites. A question was raised as to whether excavation on the Annapolis complex would lead to an archeological dig. DGS indicated that this might be a possibility. DGS suggested that the Commission might also want to ask the General Assembly for \$200,000 worth of seed money to

begin the work on the design and installation of the memorial. The Commission could consider student design awards of \$25,000 and also stipends to the judges. Hiring a professional architect or other design professional would require similar fees. DGS informed the Commission that a design competition could be time-consuming. Several Commission members suggested contacting the University of Maryland design students (and other students) to participate.

It was suggested by several Commission members that a tour of the complex grounds and local Annapolis sites might be beneficial. Staff will schedule a tour.

Senator DeGrange and Delegate Hixson asked DGS to research other state Educator Memorials and to report back to the Commission. Delegate Hixson recommended the National Conference of State Legislatures site. Iowa State was also recommended as a possibility.

Next Steps:

- 1.) Have DGS send a letter to the State House Trust to identify potential sites.
- 2.) In September, have Commission Members tour potential sites and identify and prioritize sites for further discussion.
- 3.) Have Commission Members submit ideas for design.
- 4.) Have DGS research other State Educator Memorials.
- 5.) Schedule next meeting.

Commission on the Establishment of a Maryland Educators Service Memorial

September 26, 2013

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Senator DeGrange. On a motion by Theresa Dudley, seconded by Renee Spence, the minutes of the September 9, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Deputy State Archivist Tim Baker and State House Trust Administrator Elaine Rice Bachmann addressed the Commission. Ms Bachmann explained that the State House Trust had been established to “bring alive” the 400 years of history to visitors to the Maryland State House and grounds, inside the sidewalk around State Circle. To that end, the State House Trust adopted a strategic master plan in 2007. The master plan does not call for any new memorials to be placed on the grounds inside the sidewalk at State Circle. Therefore, placement of a Maryland Educators Service Memorial would not be appropriate on those grounds, at this time.

Ms Bachmann also advised the Commission that there is a Maryland Public Art Commission that is very interested in all public arts projects in Maryland. This group facilitated the design and installation of the 9-11 Memorial in Baltimore. Ms Bachmann encouraged the Maryland Educators Service Memorial Commission to contact this group for advice.

Mr. Baker and Ms Bachmann suggested that the Commission consider every site near the State House complex, even if the site is relatively small. They suggested the Commission consider smaller memorials, such as walkways and benches. They also provided pictures of smaller architectural sculptures depicting an “apple”; a recognized symbol of education.

Senator DeGrange asked Mr. Baker and Ms Bachmann if they were aware of any other sites in the vicinity that might be appropriate. They indicated the Post Office site and the Bladen Street Redevelopment site. They suggested that it could be extremely beneficial to the funding and approval process to take advantage of an existing capital project. They also suggested that the Commission look at the grounds around the House of Delegates garage and the courtyard between the Miller and James Senate Office Buildings.

Ms Wendy Scott-Napier, Department of General Services, explained that the Post Office property is planned for a lease-back to the Federal Government for over a year. This would mean that the property would not be available for state use for at least two years. State Offices are planned for the property.

The Commission members discussed potential sites. There was consensus that the site should be highly visible and easily accessible to the public. The Commission members discussed the grounds near the Old Treasury Building. This building is planned to be used to house 17th century exhibits. The grounds are planned to be retained as open space.

The Commission members discussed the Green Street property. This property is at the foot of Main Street near the harbor. This property is under renovation, and when completed, will house both an elementary school and offices of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education. The Commission members also discussed the small triangle of land at the intersection of Francis Street and Main Street, in Annapolis. This space is near the Maryland State Education Association. This space is probably owned by the City of Annapolis.

The Commission members were especially interested in the areas around Lawyers Mall (between the Department of Legislative Services Building and Government House). This site is highly visible because it is the drop-off point for many student tours. However, the Commissioner members are aware that the Thurgood Marshall memorial is part of the artistic property of the State of Maryland and the Commission might need additional approval to place another memorial in proximity to the Thurgood Marshall memorial. The Maryland Public Art Commission will be invited to the next meeting.

The Commission members asked that representatives from the Department of Legislative Services be contacted to determine how an educator's memorial could best be incorporated into their student tours. This information might be helpful in determining a site location and "type" of memorial that would be most interesting to students. Also, the Commission members would like to have statistics on the number of students that tour the State House and grounds on an annual basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 for a tour of the State House Complex.

Next Steps:

Coordinate schedules and set next meeting date

Contact the Maryland Public Art Commission to attend the next meeting

Contact the Department of Legislative Services to attend the next meeting

Continue to research other education memorials

Commission on the Establishment of a Maryland Educators Service Memorial

November 14, 2013

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Senator DeGrange. On a motion by Midhu Sidhu, seconded by Ellen Robertson, the minutes of the September 26, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously. Senator DeGrange, Delegate Hixon, Senator McFadden, Delegate Branch, Ellen Robertson, Madhu Sidhu, Renee Spence, Susie Jablinske, Theresa Dudley and Judith Cephas were in attendance.

Patricia Harrison, Visitor Coordinator with the Department of Legislative Services, provided information concerning student tours. Last year, over 7,000 students toured the State House complex. The vast majority of students tour the complex during the legislative session. The educational tours include information about the legislative process, a tour of the State House and gallery, a tour of Government House (optional), a meet and greet with legislators, and a tour of the committee rooms. Most tours are arranged by legislators. Most students are 4th graders or high schoolers. Tours are also given to over 1,000 international visitors each year.

Ms. Harrison was asked about meeting space and lunch space for the students. She replied that space was very limited. There are some spaces that can accommodate 30 students, but not larger groups. Unfortunately, the design of the new buildings in the Annapolis complex did not include public gathering space. Most students gather and eat outside in good weather, or in committee rooms (if available) during inclement weather. The committee was very interested in this information, but agreed that the identification of additional public space was outside of the scope of this committee.

Sam Cook, Department of General Services, reviewed potential sites with the committee. Mr. Cook cautioned the committee that sites on, or adjacent to, Lawyers Mall might conflict with the Thurgood Marshall memorial. He further cautioned that the design on any memorial on Lawyers Mall would need to be mindful of the protests that take place on the Mall. Further, site maintenance and underground utilities might become an issue.

Mr. Cook recommended the large site (North Street) next to the Legislative Services Building. Mr. Cook recommended this site because it is large, is adjacent to the drop-off point for students, has views of St. Johns College and State Circle, and could easily become part of the student tour. He stated that another positive aspect of the site is that it could be easily maintained by General Services.

On its previous walking tour, the committee had identified two sites on the State House side of Lawyers Mall that it preferred. Those sites were more highly visible to the public. On a motion by Theresa Dudley, seconded by Madhu Sidhu, the committee voted to recommend the two smaller sites on the State House side of Lawyers Mall as the preferred primary sites for the memorial. Two members voted in opposition. The motion passed.

Sam Cook was asked to research any utility or site issues with these primary sites and report back to the committee.

Delegate Branch moved that in the event the preferred primary sites are determined to be unacceptable, the North Street site recommended by Mr. Cook be put forth as the alternative site for the memorial. This motion was seconded by Ellen Robertson. The committee discussed this motion. Theresa Dudley asked about the possibility of using the Treasury Building site. The committee advised that the State House Trust has said that this building is not appropriate for a memorial. After further discussion, the committee felt that this alternative motion was premature. Delegate Branch withdrew the motion.

The committee heard a presentation from Lisa Seaman-Crawford and Jessica Cuches concerning the Greene Street school renovations. The committee is not recommending the Greene Street site at this time.

The committee discussed next steps. Upon receipt of information from Sam Cook, staff will forward that information and the committee's site preferences to the Maryland Arts Council. Staff will work with the Arts Council on preliminary designs and cost estimates. The designs and cost estimates will be shared with the committee electronically. It is anticipated that acceptance and/or prioritization of the designs can be done electronically. Staff will then compile the report of the committee to include its minutes, site recommendation, prioritized draft designs and cost estimates. This report will fully address the charge to the committee. The November 20, 2013 was cancelled.