

**Minutes**  
**Manassas Historic Resources Board**  
**January 2, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**City Hall**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Rob Fisher at 7:00 p.m.

**Determination of a Quorum:**

A majority of the board is present.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Rob Fisher, Connie Gilman, Mark Olsen, Jill Pascale, Joseph Hanlin, Robert Keller

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

**Board Members Absent:** Lyshawn Dean, Dave Button, Don Wilson

**City Council Member Liaison:** Michelle Davis-Younger, Council Member – Present

**Museum Staff in Attendance:** None.

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

**Approval of Minutes of November 6, 2018 and December 12, 2018:**

Bob Keller moved to approve the minutes as written, and Connie Gilman 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 to the New Year and introduced Councilmember Michelle Davis-Younger as the newly appointed liaison to both the HRB and Parks and Recreation Committee. The Chairman appointed Bob Keller as HRB liaison to the Parks and Recreation Committee and stated he is looking forward to working jointly with the committee.

**Council Comments:** Michelle Davis-Younger introduced herself and her family history in Manassas and stated she is looking forward to working with the Board on historic resource matters.

**Director's Report:** Elizabeth Via-Gossman

Elizabeth Via-Gossman provided updates on the following projects:

- Jennie Dean – the Committee will unveil a scale model of the statue on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 pm at the City Council meeting. The Board is encouraged to attend.
- Liberia – the porch is complete and all that remains is to finalize site grading for stormwater protection purposes and implement landscaping plans. The landscape plans include along Portner, the beginning of an ornamental garden and clearing additional scrub between the house and Mathis Avenue to continue opening the house up for visibility and security.

Hardwoods are not to be cut down however there are several dead or dying trees along the driveway that need to be removed and replanted.

- Annaburg Manor – the City Council has not formally moved to acquire the purchase of the property though money is available for this acquisition. If acquired there is planning money in the FY20 budget request to master plan the park and determine an appropriate use for the house as well as discuss rehabilitation or restoration goals.

The Board discussed the potential acquisition and whether or not they should take a position to support or not support the acquisition. The Board has not been formally asked by the City Council to make a recommendation however, the Board can take that action at its pleasure.

Mark Olson moved that the Manassas Historic Resources Board support the acquisition of Annaburg Manor; Connie Gilman seconded the motion.

Discussion: Members Keller and Fisher expressed concern that the item was not on the agenda for action and the full board did not have an opportunity to weigh in on the subject. The Chairman proposed that the item should be placed on the next agenda.

Vote:

Rob Fisher	N
Connie Gilman	Y
Joseph Hanlin	N
Robert Keller	N
Mark Olsen	Y
Jill Pascale	N

Absent: Dave Button, Lyshawn Dean, Don Wilson

The motion failed and the Chairman directed Staff to place the item on the February 5<sup>th</sup> agenda with appropriate background and information.

Honorary Board Member Sue Parker urged the Board to become more proactive on matters impacting historic preservation and history in the City of Manassas.

**Parks, Culture and Recreation 2019 Annual Report:** Liz Via-Gossman presented the draft annual report to the board which will be presented to the City Council later that month. Board members are invited to attend that meeting.

**Old Business: None.**

**New Business: FY20 Work Plan/CIP discussion**

Liz Via-Gossman announced that the City Manager would present his budget and CIP recommendations to the City Council on March 11<sup>th</sup> and that she expected that the idea of a library on the Museum grounds was not going to be in the recommended CIP as Prince William County had declined to participate in that capital project. However, with the City's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming up in April, 2023, she thought the department should start moving forward with plans for utilizing the Merchant bequest to renovate the main gallery and exhibit areas in anticipation of that

anniversary. There is money in the current budget to engage the exhibit consultants in conceptual planning for this project. She also recommended that the Board consider updating their strategic and business plan documents with the assumption that at minimum, we would be renovating the galleries and at the most we would be adding a small addition to include better meeting space and artifact storage. The Board concurred and Staff was directed to put the most recent strategic plan on the February agenda and propose a process for both that and the renovation.

Other items for the February agenda will include a presentation by Kisha Wilson-Sogunro on the AAM community engagement assessment and a store update from Crystal Wilson.

**Close of Business:**

Rob Fisher asked for any other business. No further business was brought forward. The next meeting is scheduled for February 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the Manassas Museum.

**Adjournment:**

Joe Hanlin moved to adjourn the meeting and Bob Keller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 8:07 p.m.

  
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Rob Fisher, Chairman

  
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Date