



City of Dallas

**MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 22, 2017

2:30 p.m.

Dallas City Hall, Council Chambers

1500 Marilla Street, 6EN

Dallas, Texas 75201

PRESENT: [16]

Frances Cudjoe Waters, Buddy Apple, Jesse Hornbuckle, Rene Martinez, Marilyn Mayse, Norma Minnis, Sara Mokuria, Glenn Newman, Mary Orsak (Youth Commission), Coy Poitier, Larry Schoenbrun, Ervin Seamster, Jr., Jo Trizila, Barvo Walker, Michael Waters, Bryce Weigand,

ABSENT: [6]

Frederick Haynes, Coymelle Murchison, Maggie Murchison, Terrance Perkins, Joli Robinson, Arman Rupani

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Tammy Palomino (CAO), Bert Vandenberg (CAO), Juan Garcia (CMO), Jennifer Scripps (OCA), David Fisher (OCA), Clifton Gillespie (OCA), Kay Kallos (OCA), Lynn Rushton (OCA), Rhonda Ivery (OCA), Daniel Huerta (PKR), David Cossum (DEV), Patricia Blasquez (MCC), John Slate (SEC), Mark Doty (DEV)

I. Call To Order

A quorum of the task force members being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes of the September 19, 2017 Meeting

Mr. Martinez moved to adopt the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Walker and unanimously adopted.

III. Consideration of Written Public Comments

Dr. Waters moved that all written public comments received through 2:30 p.m. today via the online portal at DallasCulture.org be incorporated into the record of this meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Apple. The Chair called the vote and declared the motion passed with one abstention. [EXHIBIT A]

IV. Recommendations of Task Force

Dr. Waters moved to recommend the Confederate Monument in Pioneer Park be relocated. Motion seconded by Ms. Mokuria. Following discussion, the Chair called the vote and declared the motion passed on a divided vote (12-4).

Mr. Weigand moved that the name of Lee Parkway be changed. Motion seconded by Ms. Trizila. Following discussion, the Chair called the vote and declared the motion failed on a divided vote (5-11).

Mr. Martinez moved that “those streets that are named after a confederate leader and/or general, who made a significant contribution to the Confederacy, specifically Gano, Lee and Cabell, should be changed.” Motion seconded by Ms. Mayse. Mr. Newman moved to amend the motion to add the streets Stonewall and Beauregard. Motion to amend seconded by Ms. Orsak. Following discussion, the Chair called the vote and declared the motion to amend passed on a divided vote (11-5). On the original motion by Mr. Martinez, as amended, following further discussion, the Chair called the vote and declared the motion passed on a divided vote (8-3) with five abstentions.

Mr. Martinez moved “that the renaming of these streets shall be accomplished on a priority basis within 90 days and the comment process be expanded to include the voices of people throughout the city whose ideas and testimony shall be given equal weight with those of adjacent property owners.” Motion seconded by Dr. Waters. Following discussion, the Chair called the vote and declared the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 4:02 p.m., and reconvened at 4:10 p.m.

Ms. Mokuria moved that “recognizing that Fair Park is a local, state, and national landmark, the Task Force recommends that the historic art and architecture of Fair Park which contains symbols of, or references to, the Confederate States of America or persons associated therewith, shall remain in place as a piece of the history of Texas as presented at Fair Park, but with appropriate signage, markers, digital tour guides, public art, educational programming, and/or exhibitions added as necessary to provide the full context of the Civil War, Reconstruction, “Lost Cause” mythology, the “Jim Crow” era, and the creation of

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Fair Park for the 1936 Centennial. Historical context should include reference to the many contributions of Mexicans, Tejanos and indigenous peoples made during the colonization of Texas, the Texas Revolution, and during and after the Mexican War leading to the 20th Century. To include the participation or exclusion of various communities in those historic events. It is further recommended that the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department and Landmark Commission shall work with the Dallas Historical Society concerning the foregoing, as well as with the African American Museum and the Public Art Committee in adding a substantive commemoration of the Hall of Negro Life which was built for the 1936 Texas Centennial, recognition of the “Jim Crow” era and South Dallas bombings, and that the City of Dallas allocate funding and seek additional private and grant funding for the accomplishment of this work.” Motion seconded by Ms. Minnis. Following discussion, the Chair called the vote and declared the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Mokuria moved that this process be directed and led by paid local and regional artists, architects, preservationists, historians. Motion seconded by Dr. Waters. The Chair called the vote and declared the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Walker moved to recommend that attempts be made to return to Dallas, or recreate, the murals which previously occupied the Hall of Negro Life at Fair Park. Motion seconded by Dr. Waters. The Chair called the vote and declared the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schoenbrun moved that “The Mayor’s Task Force on Confederate Monuments recommends that the statue of Robert E. Lee, now in storage, be put on public display by donation to a museum, educational center or other appropriate setting, preferably in the DFW metropolitan area, that shall, in the event of public display, properly describe the statue in its accurate historical context, relative to the history of slavery and the Civil War, the mythology of ‘Lost Cause and ‘gallant South’ promotions in the post-Reconstruction era, and the history of segregation and discrimination that followed. If that effort is unsuccessful, the statue should be sold to a private individual or entity upon condition that it will not be displayed in a public place or in public view.” Motion seconded by Mr. Weigand. Following discussion, the Chair called the vote and declared the motion failed on a divided vote (5-11).

Mr. Apple moved that “it is the recommendation of the Task Force that the City of Dallas seek to give the statue of Robert E. Lee by Alexander Phimister Proctor, which was recently removed from Oak Lawn Park, and the base of said statue, which was designed by Mark Lemmon and currently remains in Oak Lawn Park, as well as the Confederate Monument by Frank Teich currently located within

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Pioneer Cemetery, on long-term loan or by donation to a museum, educational institution, or educational site located within North Texas so that they may be preserved and used for educational purposes through its display within the full historical context of the Civil War, Reconstruction, 'Lost Cause' mythology, and the 'Jim Crow' era. If the City is unsuccessful in its efforts, and the statues remain in storage after three years the City Council shall revisit this issue." Motion seconded by Ms. Trizilla.

The meeting recessed at 5:01 p.m., and reconvened at 5:06 p.m.

Following discussion of the motion by Mr. Apple, the Chair called the vote and declared passed on a divided vote (10-4), with one abstention.

Dr. Waters moved to recommend that the City Council should erect a marker at Akard and Main streets memorializing the lynching of Allen Brooks. Motion seconded by Ms. Mokuria. The Chair called the vote and declared the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Mokuria moved to recommend that the City of Dallas create a racial equity policy after public acknowledgement and apology for the policies and practices of the City that have furthered institutional racism and segregation. Motion seconded by Dr. Waters. Following discussion, the Chair called the vote and declared the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Mokuria moved to recommend that a citywide engagement process be initiated to consider renaming City parks with placeholder names for historical abolitionists, the formerly enslaved, civil and human rights leaders, people from marginalized and underrepresented communities, and victims of police brutality. Motion seconded by Dr. Waters. Following discussion, the Chair called the vote and declared the motion passed on a divided vote (8-3) with four abstentions.

V. Final Words

The Chair thanked the task force, staff, and the public for their participation in this process.

VI. Adjournment

After all business properly brought before the task force had been considered, the task force adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

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NOTE: As this was the final meeting of the Task Force, the body is unable to vote to formally approve these minutes.

Frances Cudjoe Waters, Chair

ATTEST:

Clifton Gillespie, Office of Cultural Affairs

Date Approved