



## **Arts and Humanities Council of Falls Church Meeting**

August 18, 2022

Virtual Meeting

Minutes

**Members Present:** Laura Hull, Mary Sellers, Elise Neil Bengtson, Maureen Budetti, Ron Anzalone, Ellen Gross, Nikki Graves Henderson

**Liaisons:** Corey Price, Keith Thurston, Letty Hardi, Ed Henderson

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Laura Hull at 9:36 a.m.

### **Receipt of Public Comments**

- No public comments were received

**Minutes:** Minutes were approved for July meeting with edits

### **Roundtable Discussions**

- Victorian Society
  - Hosting booth at Falls Church Festival (Sept 17) to recruit new members
  - Victorian Literary Evening scheduled for Fri Oct 28 highlighting Oscar Wilde and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the discovery of King Tut's Tomb
  - Victorian Christmas event scheduled at Cherry Hill for Thursday Nov 26
- FCA
  - Plein Air scheduled for Sept 24 (rain date Oct 1)
  - Current exhibition, Wild, followed by Scapes
  - Art Critique Group – Mon Sept 19 (third Mon of each month)
  - Intro to watercolor – Oct 17 from 3-5 pm
- CATCH Foundation
  - Watch Night planning in the works
- VPIS
  - Summer Concerts taking place on Thursday evenings in Cherry Hill Park
  - VPIS has expressed some concerns around the Founders Row Project
- Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation
  - Mural project still working with 3 building owners including Foxes Music and the optometrist building
  - Donor interested in sponsoring a utility box mural
  - Boy Scout Eagle Scout Project- Banners Marking Tinner Hill Heritage Trail and plantings
- Historical Commission
  - Meeting scheduled for Aug 25
- FCPS
  - AHC members are welcome to take a tour of High School Theatre Space. Contact Marybeth to schedule tour

- Chamber of Commerce
  - Working on Fall and Winter Programs
- Creative Cauldron
  - Summer Cabaret 22 series going strong
  - Upcoming season released – Ichabod, The Princess and the Goblin, The Christmas Angel, Holiday Cabaret Series, Passport to the World, Diagnosed, The Snow Queen, and Audrey
  - Hired Bi-lingual fulltime teaching artist
  - Afterschool drama program partnerships with Second Story and Fairfax County title 1 school.
  - Approached by Arts Fairfax about grants reaching underserved communities
- City Council
  - Founder Row hosted live music event with frozen treats

**New Business:**

- Fellows Property Draft Master Park Plan
  - City of Falls Church is soliciting community feedback to establish a Master Park Plan for the Property
  - Comments:
    - Disappointment that the house was not salvaged
    - Is there a connection to Harry Fellows? Past Mayor of Falls Church
      - Consider historic interpretation (plaque) to Fellows family
    - Request property be used to preserve and protect endangered species such as monarch butterflies
      - Recommend using native materials to create the park
    - Consider incorporating art that blends with nature such as the artwork in Howard E Herman park.
- Park Avenue – Great Streets Project
  - This project will transform Park Avenue from N. Virginia Avenue to N. Washington Street into a “Great Street,” which are lively, attractive roadways that accommodate all modes of transportation while promoting social interaction, civic activity, and/or commerce.
  - Comments:
    - The Farmhouse and Barn are not included in any of the plans and should be considered in the design
      - Recommend accessibility to the farmhouse from the road such as an access ramp around the retaining wall
      - Museum needs distinctive signage
    - Bulbouts should be considered with caution. Other bulbouts in the City have caused cars to veer into ongoing traffic.
    - More information needs to be provided on the planned plaza in front of City Hall
    - Concerns with relocating the Farmer’s market in front of City Hall
    - Consider adding cherry trees in front of the farmhouse as a reminder of the farms name and the cherry trees that lined the Blaisdell’s driveway.

- Falls Church City's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - City Council has asked the city to do something to commemorate the year
    - Recommendation has been made to create a committee
  - Suggest creating a 75<sup>th</sup> logo/branding
  - Arts & Humanities festival event
  - Review the timeline of what happened 75 years ago (what are we commemorating)
  - Start and end the year's celebration with Watch Night

**Old Business:**

- Falls Church Art Walk
  - EDA approved the AHC adopting/modifying the Little City logo for the art walk.
  - The EDA was particularly drawn to the design with the paintbrush and pallet
  
- Arts & Economic Prosperity Report
  - Reminder to our nonprofit organizations that we need to work hard to collect surveys at all our programs and events this year.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 15 at 9:30 am

*Submitted:*

*By Corey Price*