

Ralph Bunche Advisory Committee
January 18, 2023 – King George Citizens Center

Members present: Chair Renee Parker, Secretary Phyllis Cook, Claudette Jordon, Nick Minor, Chris Clarke, Stephanie Burch, Terri Rinko, Pegi Wright.

Remote: Annie Cupka, Cristina Turdean, Lisa Hull.

Absent: Cathy Binder, Mike Hubbard, Shannon Tolliver, Tameka Heyward, Cathy Cutright.

Renee called the meeting to order at 3:05pm and noted the agenda and the minutes from the December meeting were at members' seats. She opened Public Comment. No public present.

Renee noted that decisions on the logo domain name for social media had been put on hold at the December meeting. Phyllis said the Marketing-Communications subcommittee will review and report back.

Renee called for suggestions for upcoming community events where committee members can share information about the Ralph Bunche project with the public and also fundraise for it.

~ Stephanie will find out if a Builders Show is planned for this year.

~ Pegi will see whether the county committee would be charged for a table/booth at the Farmers Market on Community Days, which are the on the first Saturdays of May through October.

~ Renee will explore participation in Family Day on May 6 at Sealston Park.

~ Pegi noted there is a Family Fun Day hosted by the YMCA in the end of April, with Annie saying she would explore participation for that option.

Stephanie asked about decisions on names for categories for donation recognition of various levels of giving by individuals, companies, and organizations. Annie said the Capital Campaign subcommittee could review the suggestions it has and take a poll of its members so it might be addressed at the next meeting on February 8.

Claudette said a December Annual Christmas Luncheon hosted by the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association sparked some donations toward the museum project, with inspiration coming from representatives of the Advisory Committee on hand to share their enthusiasm about the project.

There was a discussion of the committee holding a large event to formally launch a fundraising announcement for the project, with Annie suggesting it be held at the auditorium at UMW-D sometime in the Fall. She suggested that the Ralph Bunche video and panels, "The Road to School Desegregation in King George County" be played and displayed to highlight the legacy of the school building. There was also a mention of having an additional invitation-only smaller event with philanthropists and representatives of philanthropic organizations/foundations to garner interest for possible higher dollar donations toward project. Renee suggested that a subcommittee be formed to focus effort on such events, suggesting chairs of the four existing subcommittees consider joining this new one, as well as other interested members.

Annie gave a review of some grant opportunities in the coming year for which application is expected. She also talked about the group putting on a STEM (focuses Scientific, Technological, Engineering or Mathematical skills) or STEAM (focuses on the same skills and adds Arts) focused activity for children and their parents, as the YMCA recently did with drones with George Hinckley, who is a potential partner for the Ralph Bunche project. Annie said she would reach out to George to discuss it.

Lisa announced that the Northern Neck had been designated as the Northern Neck National Historic Area, saying the information should be included on our future printed (or reprinted) matter.

Nick said there is a Virginia Black Business Directory and they are looking at coming up with a regional Black Business Directory, adding he thought this group/project should be included in it. Nick also said the Ralph Bunche project was not selected for a grant award from the Industrial Revitalization Fund, saying the county would reapply in the next round and thought it would be looked on more favorably if the application focused on uses for the whole building. He said an emphasis on the potential for positive economic impact including the number of jobs created, amount of private investment and potential for workforce training.

Nick also encouraged Claudette for the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association to consider developing a grant request to the KG Tourism Committee as a Black History site.

Renee reminded members the next meeting would be 3-4:30pm February 8 at the King George Citizen Center. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm