

Ralph Bunche Advisory Committee
3 p.m. – September 14, 2022
University of Mary Washington - Dahlgren

Members present: Renee Parker, Claudette Jordon, Annie Cupka, Cathy Binder, Nick Minor, Chris Clarke, Mike Hubbard.

Remote: Stephanie Burch, Lisa Hull, Terri Rinko, Shannon Tolliver, Cristina Turdean, Pegi Wright

Absent: Phyllis Cook, Cathy Cutright, Tameeka Heyward,

The meeting was called to order by Chair Renee Parker with Claudette Jordon as note taker.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Renee called for public comment. None offered.

Agenda materials and notes/minutes from the previous meeting on August 10, 2022, were provided to members for review and will be sent to the County for public posting. Supreme thanks extended to Chris Clark for always rising to the occasion to help with not only assuring remote access to meetings but also with the printed materials and distribution.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES/DISCUSSION

Business Plan:

Chair Chris Clark previously sent the business plan to committee members for input but will re-send and re-convene to do more work as the business plan and methods of giving are vital to the overall process as well as links to the goals of Capital Fundraising Subcommittee and may also be integral for any resolution the Board of Supervisors would issue to state its intention to partner with the two entities (RBAA and V&R). Draft letters of support are being developed to go out to Individuals, Businesses and Organizations. Letters will be made available for members to review with comments/suggestions to be sent to Annie. Business Plan Subcommittee meeting date forthcoming.

Capital Fundraising:

Chair Annie Cupka suggested that to help bring more partnership, project and fundraising awareness, that the County, Ralph Bunche Alumni Association and Visualize and Rize should secure tables at the King George HS Homecoming (9-23), the 20 years KGHS class reunion of Jermon and Shannon (10-7) and the Annual Fall Festival (10-8). Double sided Rack cards [under the County seal, RBAA on one side and V&R on the other] to accentuate the partnerships and several newspaper articles would occupy the County table. RBAA and V&R will absorb the cost of approx. 1000 Rack Cards to be given away. [Prototype provided complete with QR codes] Several RBAA “The Road to School Desegregation” exhibit panels were requested to be used as a backdrop. RBAA will provide at its table updated brochures, individual, business and organization membership applications and pens to give away. V&R will have Visualize and Rize Foundation merchandise at their table. RBAA has begun a donation- membership level drive. A donation not only gets one on the proposed Ralph Bunche “Honor Roll” wall of giving, but the donation is also counted to elevate membership levels.

Museum-Historical:

Chair Claudette Jordon shared committee discussion topics:

Scheduled 9-9 tour of RBH canceled and purging of RBAA storage unit due to chair’s foot injury

Themes for displays with emphasis on the founders vs all on Dr. Bunche

Timeline for the story to be told- use of archived oral histories- use of technology
Permanent and temporary exhibitions- estimated cost for updated designs-grants for artifacts/replicas
Discussion ensued regarding preserving the original RBHS gym scoreboard/clock and basketball hoops and
windup backboards; recent newspaper articles generated alumni wanting to donate items for the museum; credit
for Ursula Williams the author of the Ralph Bunche High School Alma Mater-make recording or have KGHS
choir perform it at future function(s); Dr. Ralph J. Bunche invited to attend the 1949 dedication of Ralph
Bunche High School-whereabouts of his original telegram response unknown; Lisa Hull has knowledge about
his great, great grandson Ralph J. Bunche, III and will bring research/ideas back to the subcommittee; Terri
agreed to search KG school's archives for the telegram; Renee will look in the KG Historical Society archives
and Cristina will search Dr. Bunche's archives/Library of Congress.

MISSION STATEMENT: Remains an agenda item until completed.

UPDATE: Abandoned School Revitalization Zone

Nick Minor gave updates on the Abandoned School Revitalization Zone designation for Ralph Bunche and the
old middle school and the Industrial Revitalization Fund 1M grant request was submitted on August 19th.
Public Hearing scheduled and support is needed.

UPDATE: Grant Applications and Information

Annie reported that the National Park Service grant due date is November 8th and that the grant amount has
increased to \$750,000. Nick and staff are hard at work to complete the application and stabilization, drainage
and hazard mitigation will be emphasized. Power-energy saving measures and modern technology/FIOS were
also discussed. [Northern Neck Electric is a viable resource].

Letters of support requested from Wittman (received); Warner; Caine; Spanberger; UMW; RBAA & Jermon
Bushrod.

Information shared on the Virginia Museum of History grant qualifications for the Museum-Historical
Subcommittee to assess.

BIPOC (Black Indigenous People Of Color) grant found on the DHR website opens Spring'23.

ACTION ITEMS

Chris will schedule the Business Plan Subcommittee meeting-complete the plan

Shannon will provide needed Visualize and Rize Foundation information for the Business Plan

Review Capital Campaign letters-submit revisions/comments to Annie

Museum-Historical Subcommittee to research Ralph J. Bunche III; formulate a plan for school Alma Mater

Terri will search KG school archives for original telegram from Dr. Bunche-1949 RBHS dedication

Renee will search Historical Society archives for original telegram from Dr. Bunche-1949 RBHS dedication

Cristina will search Dr. Bunche's archives/Library of Congress

Renee will email Rack Card samples to members

Annie and Renee check rates for FIOS

Meeting adjourned 4:20pm

Next meeting October 12, 2022, 3-4:30 p.m., MWU-Dahlgren

Please notify Committee or subcommittee chairs if remote access is needed to attend meetings.

