

Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture
Public Meeting
Minutes of April 2, 2018

A public meeting was held on Monday, April 2, 2018 at the Cecil College, 1 Seahawk Drive, North East, Maryland 21042.

The meeting was called to order at 11:14 a.m. by Acting Chair Dale Glenwood Green. The following commissioners were in attendance: Iris Leigh Barnes, Maya Davis, Acting Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara England Wilson, Herbert Frisby, Jr., Malcolm Funn, Janice Curtis Greene, Marilyn Hatza, Edwin T. Johnson, Michael Kent, Steven X. Lee, Lopez Matthews, Cheryl McLeod, and Elinor L. Thompson.

Proof of Public Notice

Accepted by general consensus.

Welcome

LeRonn Herbert, thanked Ms. Laney Hoxter, Multi-Cultural Diversity Director of Cecil College, for working with the Maryland Commission on African American History & Culture (MCAAHC) in providing the great room and presenting the opportunity to have the commission's public meeting held at the Cecil College campus.

The floor was turned over to Ms. Mary Way Bolt, President of the Cecil College, who gave a formal welcome at the MCAAHC meeting. She thanked the MCAAHC for thinking of Cecil College to share the various work of the commission as well as thanked the public for their tremendous interest in coming to support the meeting.

Opening Statement – Winston Wilkinson, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office of Community Initiatives

Winston Wilkinson, Chief of Staff of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, welcomed the public and the MCAAHC to the April 2nd MCAAHC Public Meeting. He shared that the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives works with the commission and is a supporter of the commission. Executive Director Wilkinson welcomed the new MCAAHC Commissioners and shared that he is excited about the projects and new endeavors the MCAAHC has moving forward.

LeRonn Herbert, Special Assistant to the MCAAHC, took a moment to recognize Maya Davis, Commissioner of Prince George's County and Elinor L. Thompson, Commissioner of Anne Arundel County that arrived to the MCAAHC meeting.

Minutes of October 2, 2017 Meeting

Acting Chair Green shared that October 2nd's MCAAHC minutes will be tabled and presented at the June 4th MCAAHC meeting.

Director's Report

Acting Chair Green introduced Chanel Compton, Director of the MCAAHC and the Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM). She began her Director's Report by saying that she is the director for the BDM and the MCAAHC. Director Compton said that she will be sharing her report for February, which is Black History Month and March, which is Women's History Month. She said for the months of February and March many may have seen several African American commercials, movies, programs that celebrated Black History Month. While this is significant, she shared that the BDM produces these kind of empowering occurrences all year long.

During February, Black History Month, Director Compton said that the BDM had the highest visitation attendance of 1,300 visitors since 2010. She also said that there was an official opening statement given by Governor Larry Hogan declaring that "2018 is the Year of Frederick Douglass in the State of Maryland." The Maryland Office of Tourism, the MCAAHC, the BDM, along with community partners, presented a launch page of activities in Anne Arundel County, where Frederick Douglass spoke; Talbot County, where he was born; and

Baltimore City, where he lived. Beyond this, there were several anti-racism workshops that took place during the months of January and February that continued to spotlight the tremendous works of Frederick Douglass the social justice crusader. These workshops were designed to promote healthy ways to have dialogue about race.

Director Compton said that there were some significant visits and events that took place at BDM during Black History Month. Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford made a formal visit to see the new “Bent but Not Broken” Art exhibition in the museum’s temporary gallery as well as go for a docent guided tour of the BDM. On Monday, February 26th the Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism hosted their Inaugural Black History Month Awards Program showcasing the various Maryland based organizations that do outstanding volunteer work.

Director Compton took a moment to recognize her BDM Staff: LeRonn Herbert, Outreach Coordinator and Sabriyah Hassan, Program Director as well as BDM’s General Docent: Jutta Butler.

Director Compton shared that during the month of February, Kenneth Morris, Jr. the great, great, great, great, grandson of Frederick Douglass printed one million copies of the Autobiography of Frederick Douglass. Free copies of this book was given to students ages eight to seventeen in celebration of Frederick Douglass’ Bicentennial Birthday.

Director Compton said that in honor of Women’s History Month, the BDM is hosting a three part teaching series during the months of March, April, and May called, “Teaching That Inspires”. These sessions were led by Dr. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, the 2014 National Humanities Medal recipient as well as scholars and historians from the Association for the Study of African American Life & History (ASALH). This series is designed to equip educators and others to effectively teach African American History.

For the month of March, Director Compton showcased that the BDM will have the: Shero Film Festival Series with Annapolis Filmsters, the Lou Fields Harriet Tubman Lifetime Achievement Award ceremony recognizing historian and scholar Dr. Janet Sims-Wood, and a Spoken Word Program with Umar Bin Hassan of the Last Poets. The BDM ended the month of March with an author’s talk and book signing by former commissioner Sharon Parker on her book “True Synergy Works Leading Within.”

The MCAAHC Commissioners joined Governor Larry Hogan and First Lady Hogan for the First Lady’s Joint Commission Recognition event that was held at the Government House. This affair was designed to recognize the significant contributions that the various ethnic commissions have made in their respective community.

On Sunday, July 1st, the BDM will be partnering with First Sunday Arts Festival and the community in recognizing Frederick Douglass’ “What to the Slave is the 4th of July” speech.

Election of Officers

Acting Chair Dale Green, took a moment and thanked the 14 of the 17 MCAAHC Commissioners that were in great attendance for this meeting at this new location: Cecil College. He said that the MCAAHC had more than nine commissioners which constituted a quorum where the voting or decision making processing can take place. He also shared that three of the MCAAHC Commissioners were not able to come to this meeting but they were excused.

Acting Chair Green said that this is his eighth term as an MCAAHC Commissioner. He shared that it has been his pleasure working with the MCAAHC where he has served for four years as an MCAAHC Commissioner, two years as vice chair, and this year as acting chair. Acting Chair Green said that 2019 will end his term limits as a commissioner.

Acting Chair Green said that each year, the MCAAHC elects a new chair and vice chair. On April 2, 2018 at 11:48 a.m. Acting Chair Green asked that LeRonn Herbert, Special Assistant to the MCAAHC to come forward and proceed with the Elections of Officers process.

Mr. Herbert took a moment to recognize Cheryl McLeod, Commissioner of Howard County that arrived to the MCAAHC meeting.

Mr. Herbert opened the floor for nominations for the Chair position for the MCAAHC. Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson nominated Acting Chair Dale Glenwood Green. Commissioner Herbert Frisby seconded and moved to close the nomination for the position of chair. There were no other responses or nominations. Commissioner Dale Green was unanimously voted in by the MCAAHC Commissioners for the position of Chairman for MCAAHC.

Mr. Herbert opened the floor for nominations for the Vice Chair position for the MCAAHC. Chair Dale Green nominated Acting Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara England Wilson. Commissioner Herbert Frisby seconded and moved to close the nomination for the position of vice chair. There were no other responses or nominations. Commissioner Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara England Wilson was unanimously voted in by the MCAAHC Commissioners for the position of Chairman for MCAAHC.

April 2, 2018

Elections of Officers-Chair and Vice Chair

Office of the Chair

RESOLVED (2018.4.02-01) that the members of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture elect Dale Glenwood Green, Chair of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture 2018-2019.

Office of the Vice Chair

RESOLVED (2018.4.02-01) that the members of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture elect Rev. Dr. Tamara England Wilson, Vice Chair of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture 2018-2019.

Report of the Officers

MCAAHC Chair Dale Green

Chair Dale Green began his report commending Ms. Mary Way Bolt, President of the Cecil College on their 50th anniversary as well as remembering the 50th Anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He asked that the public call their attention to Maryland native: Mr. Taylor Branch, a Pulitzer award winning author whose presentation titled, "50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: King in the Wilderness" will be on HBO at 8:00 p.m. on April 2nd.

Chair Green called for Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara England Wilson and Director Chanel Compton to join him at the podium where a special presentation of a clock plaque was given to Commissioner Cheryl McLeod in honor of her mother: Ms. Bette McLeod for her many contributions to the MCAAHC and the BDM.

Chair Green thanked the Maryland Legislatures for their continued support of the MCAAHC where the MCAAHC stands on the eve of reaching its 50th Anniversary. The commission was founded in 1969 and Chair Green thanked Governor Larry Hogan and Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford for their continued service and great support. Chair Green said that Governor Larry Hogan has declared that “2018 is the Year of Frederick Douglass.”

Chair Green took a moment to thank Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara England Wilson and Director Chanel Compton for meeting with him weekly with the Governance Committee. He thanked all MCAAHC Commissioners for attending the MCAAHC Commission Orientation Committee meetings that took place at Morgan State University and The Banneker-Douglass Museum. Chair Green said that the MCAAHC public log of activities and events have been made live where the MCAAHC Commissioners can see them.

Chair Green shared and said that the month of April is National Poetry Month and National Jazz Month. On April 6th, the MCAAHC, and the BDM will be recognizing Matthew Henson with an annual celebration observed by the State of Maryland. Chair Green also said that the MCAAHC has two initiatives that they will be continuing to work on this year. The first initiative is to continue the great work that the MCAAHC Commissioners are doing in their respective counties and the second initiative is to increase the awareness of the BDM throughout the State of Maryland. This is the charge of the MCAAHC as well as the residents of the State of Maryland.

Chair Green said that another endeavor that the MCAAHC is working on is to look into increasing funding for the African American Heritage Preservation Grant (AAHPG). This grant was authorized in 2010 where it was reauthorized for funding of \$1 million dollars. However there have been extensive grant applications for this grant for this year where there is a need to increase the funding to be spread for the various applicants throughout the four corners of Maryland.

Chair Green said that the MCAAHC has gotten great feedback about the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Celebration. Many individuals have shared that they are very pleased with the various programs and events that have taken place in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, and Talbot County. He said that the commission will be working on a culminating gala event celebrating the Bicentennial of Frederick Douglass.

Chair Green said that a 50th Anniversary Committee for the MCAAHC will be established at this meeting to begin the process of working on the celebration of this anniversary. Ms. Mary Welcome, the daughter of Senator Verda Freeman Welcome and founder of the MCAAHC, will be the honorary chair.

Chair Green gave an update that 17 seats have been filled for the MCAAHC where 14 MCAAHC Commissioners were present for the meeting. He said that the MCAAHC is a 21 member commission for the State of Maryland where the commissioners are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. Chair Green publically acknowledged five of the former MCAAHC Commissioners: Lyndra (née Pratt) Marshall, Barbara S. Dunn, Dr. Janet Sims-Wood, Donna Cypress, and Shelley Stokes-Hammond.

Chair Green acknowledged Commissioner Herbert Frisby for his reappointment to the MCAAHC. He also took a moment to recognize the following new MCAAHC Commissioners: Commissioner Iris Barnes, representing Howard County; Commissioner Malcolm Funn, representing Calvert County; Commissioner Maya Davis, representing Prince George’s County; Commissioner Elinor Thompson, representing Anne Arundel County; Commissioner Lynn Bowman, representing Alleghany County; Commissioner Janice Greene, representing Baltimore City; and Commissioner Reggie Turner, representing Washington County. Chair Green recognized Mr. Anthony Cohen who had become a new MCAAHC Commissioner who unfortunately resigned from his position with the MCAAHC due to his successful career that has changed the scope of his service to the State of Maryland. Chair Green said that there are four seats that are currently vacant.

Chair Green shared that the MCAAHC will be having public meetings on June 4th at the Great National Blacks & Wax Museum in Baltimore, Maryland where Commissioner Steven X. Lee organized this meeting, August 6th on the campus of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, in October a meeting in Western Maryland and in December a meeting in Southern Maryland. On Saturday, June 2nd the MCAAHC would like to have a retreat in Talbot County on a farm where Frederick Douglass encountered Mr. Edward Covey who tried to break his spirit. This retreat would last for four hours.

Chair Green said that the MCAAHC has had several AAHPG workshops where there will be a workshop on Thursday, April 12th at the Historical Society of Baltimore of Baltimore County; Federalsburg Historical Society & Museum, in Federalsburg, Maryland and Thursday, May 3rd Thurmont Regional Library (Community Room) Thurmont, Maryland. All of this information will be published on the MCAAHC's website. The AAHPG grant is open, by legislation where an African American sites, neighborhoods or building can get up to \$100,000. Non-profits do not have to have matching dollars but for profits must have matching dollars.

In finishing his report, Chair Green said that every MCAAHC Commissioner must be a part of a governing committee. The following MCAAHC Commissioners joined the following committees:

Advisory Committee

1. Commissioner Malcolm L. Funn, member
2. Commissioner Maya Davis, member

A. Conference and Programs Committee-Sub Committee

1. Commissioner Marilyn Hatza, member

Administration and Finance Committee

1. Commissioner H. Russell Frisby, member

Historical Research Preservation and Publications Committee

1. Commissioner Steven X. Lee, member
2. Commissioner Iris Leigh Barnes, member
3. Commissioner Elinor L. Thompson, member

The Banneker-Douglass Museum Committee

1. Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson, member
2. Commissioner Michael Kent, member
3. Commissioner Janice Curtis Green, member
4. Commissioner Cheryl McLeod, member

Maryland Commission on African American History & Culture 50th Anniversary Committee

1. Chair Dale Glenwood Green-chair
2. Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara D. England-Wilson, member
3. Commissioner Lopez Matthews, member

Nominations Committee (Proposed Committee)

1. Commissioner Steven X. Lee, member to be potentially appointed as chair by Chair Green due to Commissioner Lee's authoring legislation for this committee.

Two Special Committees

A. Governance Committee

1. Chair Dale Glenwood Green-chair
2. Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara D. England-Wilson-vice chair
3. Director Chanel Compton

B. African American Heritage Preservation Grant Committee-committee not open to the public

Chair Green said that all committees are open to the public except for the African American Heritage Preservation Grant Committee. He also shared that a chair has to be appointed to each committee.

Chair Green asked the MCAAHC Commissioners if they had any questions. Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson asked if the Reginald Lewis Museum falls under the jurisdiction of the African American Museums that MCAAHC governs. Chair Green said that it is not one of the museums that the MCAAHC governs, under the State of Maryland, but has three seats on their board of directors.

Commissioner Marilyn Hatza asked what the Historical Research and Preservation and Publications Committee consists of. Chair Green said that these were two committees that were debunked in the past but has now been brought to the forefront where the MCAAHC Commissioners will have the opportunity to serve as the arm on these committees with the public following afterwards. Film production of Frederick Douglass movie as well as authors who would like to produce books or materials would fit the scope of these committees.

Commissioner Steven X. Lee asked Chair Green if the research for Matthew Henson falls under the Historical Research, Preservation and Publications Committee as well as the Advisory Committee. Chair Green said that research for Matthew Henson would reside under these committees because it is a State of Maryland annual observance.

Commissioner Janice Curtis Green asked what the conference and programs department consists of under the Advisory Committee. Chair Green said that this department can be external where conferences are done independently of The BDM as well as programs like statewide symposiums can be produced internally under this committee.

MCAAHC Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara England-Wilson

Vice Chair Rev. Dr. England-Wilson shared that her report encompasses things that she had assisted, then Acting Chair Dale Green, the MCAAHC, and the Women's Commission for the State of Maryland. She said she represented the MCAAHC and the Women's Commission for Women's History Month by attending the Women's Hall of Fame event for the State of Maryland. At this affair, five women were recognized and inducted in Maryland's Hall of Fame. Vice Chair England-Wilson said that Emily Saunders Plummer, a feisty enslaved women, ran away, came back, and fought to keep her family together was posthumously inducted into the State of Maryland's Women's Hall of Fame.

Sandra Williams Otega was the first African American woman that was commissioned in the United States Air Force that was also inducted into the State of Maryland's Women's Hall of Fame.

Vice Chair Rev. Dr. England-Wilson said that she attended the Governor's International Women's Day forum where women came from various parts of the State of Maryland to have discussions about empowerment women to move forward. She shared that an international speaker was flown in from Nigeria as well.

In finishing her report, Vice Chair Rev. Dr. England-Wilson said that she and several women celebrated Harriet Tubman Wyman Park in Baltimore City.

Report of Commissioners

Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson

Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson gave a report that he attended the Harriet Tubman Grove Park Dedication in Baltimore, Maryland with Vice Chair Rev. Dr. England-Wilson and Commissioner Steven X. Lee. He asked that the MCAAHC commissioners, that attended this affair, be mindful to share information concerning this dedication for there weren't any markers designating the park and the magnitude of the moment. Commissioner Johnson reported that there is a petition devised by Mr. Lou Fields to name a part of Caroline Street to be named after Frederick Douglass and a portion of North Avenue to be named after Harriet Tubman.

Commissioner Johnson also attended the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) AAHPG workshop in Fairmount Heights and is looking to attend the MHT-AAHPG workshop in Cockeysville, Maryland. He also attended a meeting of the Baltimore Historical Society where they had a presentation on Morgan State University vs. Laurel Improvement Association case that took place in 1917. There was discussion of the great Baltimore fire as well as the tuberculosis situation of which African American citizens were plagued with this disease.

On April 19th there will be a book talk called, "The Ghost of John Hopkins, The Life and Legacy Shaped by an American City." This program was co-sponsored by the Grace Dier Memorial Lecture Series and the Baltimore City Historical Trust. Commissioner Johnson shares how there were many cadavers that did things to many blacks as well as Henrietta Lacks. He met with Pastor Earnest Gales, with the Health Freedom Inc., where they host a 5K marathon that is positioned around African American Historical areas around Morgan State University. Commissioner Johnson shared with Chair Green that he would like to see how the MCAAHC can play apart in this endeavor.

Commissioner Johnson said that Councilman Christopher Barnett would be interested in a program centered around a park in Loudon Park National Cemetery which relates to African American Civil War Troops that ties in ASALH's theme, "African Americans in Times of War."

Commissioner Lopez Matthews

Commissioner Lopez Matthews shared that ASALH's theme, as Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson said is, "African Americans in Times of War." He said that he, Chair Dale Green, and former Chairwoman Lyndra (née Pratt) Marshall attended ASALH's annual luncheon in Washington, DC. Commissioner Matthews also said that ASALH will be working in conjunction with The BDM with their "Teaching That Inspires" workshops that will take place on Thursday, April 5th and May 3rd.

Commissioner Matthews said that he will be working with ASALH throughout the year where he will be giving three presentations at their annual conference in October. He shared that he has a new book called, "Howard University and the World Wars." Commissioner Matthews will be signing the books at the ASALH conference. He lastly shared that he is the recording secretary on the Reginald Lewis Museum board with Chair Dale Green representing the MCAAHC.

Commissioner Steve X. Lee

Commissioner Lee shared that he also attended the Harriet Tubman Grove Park Dedication in Baltimore, Maryland. He said that the location of this park is in a high profile area where The Baltimore Museum of Art is across the street. He gave information, from the copies provided, that General Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson's Confederate statues were taken down where the park was dedicated to Harriet Tubman. He said that he salutes Mayor Catherine Pugh for getting the sites taken down and Council woman Mary Pat Clark that continually supports African Americans in Baltimore City. He said that she was also the one who pushed for this process to go forth with this change. Commissioner Lee said that all people helped African Americans with our struggles in this country. He said that this is just a first step in taking down the confederate monuments in Baltimore City where there are still five sites left. Commissioner Lee believes that this is a great opportunity for African Americans to have statues placed in those areas.

Commissioner Lee shared that he has been working on legislation, for two years, concerning The Commission of African American Soldiers that were in the Revolutionary War. He shared that there were free blacks, especially African American men that fought for the birth of this country.

Commissioner Lee said that when he was in his early years of schooling that there wasn't anything significant shared about the contributions and the work that African Americans gave in this war. He has research and information on 100 free black men that enlisted as soldiers that were from Maryland that participated in the Revolutionary War. Commissioner Lee feels that this is just the tip of the iceberg where he would like to extend this information for research and establish curriculum enhancements for primary schools across the State of Maryland. He said that this changes the perception of white and black people that blacks were fighting side by side in the wars of this country. In his research, Commissioner Lee found out that there was one black family that had seven members that were enlisted in the Revolutionary war.

Commissioner Lee said that the bill HB0597 has passed the House of Delegates and the Senate SB417 bill is waiting pending approval.

Commissioner Herbert Frisby, Jr.

Commissioner Herbert Frisby took a moment to thank Commissioner Steven X. Lee for the great work he's done and also thanked Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson for sharing the great information about Baltimore and John Hopkins. Commissioner Frisby gave a report on an article dated March 26, 2018 about a Laurel cemetery that is going to be excavated and memorialized. Laurel Cemetery was established in 1849 where prominent blacks were memorialized. Chair Green's seventh great-grand parents and Commissioner Frisby's great-grandparents were memorialized there. Commissioner Frisby said that the cemetery ran into trouble during the Great Depression and went into bankruptcy.

The cemetery was built in the country but Belair Road was built through it in a white area. In the 1950's the new Mondawmin Mall was built there and developers bought the property, paved over it, and redeveloped it on the cemetery site. Commissioner Frisby shared that the grave site had been moved for it is illegal to build on it. There were a lot of Civil War soldiers that were buried on that site that where their bodies were supposed to be moved but they were not moved.

Chair Green said that the stones of his seventh great grand-parents were moved but the family is not certain the bodies were moved. Commissioner Frisby said that his great-grand parents were not moved from this area. Bones from those buried there began to protrude out of the ground which led to a community outrage.

Commissioner Frisby said that his grandfather and Ms. Lillie Carol Jackson fought and went to the Maryland Court of Appeals to have something done about this situation. He said that this case was represented by some of the finest black lawyers in Maryland like: Juanita Jackson Mitchell and Dr. Gary. They ended up losing the case after much effort and hard work put forth.

Commissioner Frisby said that several years ago a professor from the University of Baltimore happened to be going by the site and saw bones sticking out of what is now a grassy field. He and someone from Coppin State University investigated this situation where they have begun a project with the students to excavate and memorialize the grounds. After reading the article, Commissioner Frisby reached out to Chair Green to see if it was alright to converse with the professor on behalf of the MCAAHC. Chair Green said yes. At present the professor and students have excavated the land and are preparing some scholarly articles as well as reports to the Maryland Historical Trust and the National Historic Registry. Commissioner Frisby has been in touch with Lawyers Michael Mitchell and Clarence Mitchell as well.

Commissioner Malcolm Funn

Commissioner Funn thanked the previous MCAAHC Commissioners for their great reports and work. He shared that he is a new commissioner that has attended many programs and functions before he was appointed as a commissioner. Commissioner Funn said that he first started attending affairs where on February 13, 2018 he went to Governor Larry Hogan's Proclamation declaring "2018 is the Year of Frederick Douglass" at the State of Maryland capital building in the Governor's reception room. He also said that he drove from Calvert County to Talbot County to the Frederick Douglass Dedication Park on the Tuckahoe.

On February 20, 2018 Commissioner Funn shared that he attended the Black History Month Reception that Governor Hogan had at his Governor's House. He also joined many MCAAHC Commissioners on February 27, 2018 for the MCAAHC Commissioner Orientation that was held at The Banneker-Douglass Museum. On March 12, 2018 he and Commissioner Kent was contacted by Governor Hogan to reach out to African American businesses that would receive citations for the great work they had been doing. On that day, Commissioner Funn attended the Governor's Cabinet meeting as well as visited various locations with Winston Wilkinson, Chief of Staff for the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives.

In addition to this, Commissioner Funn shared that he attended the AAHPG workshop that took place at the Fairmount Heights Library as well as the 2018 Governor's Ethnic Commissions' Joint Legislative Night at the House Office Building in Annapolis, Maryland. Commissioner Funn attended the unofficial Maryland Day event on March 24, 2018 at Historic St. Mary's City. Director Chanel Compton was the guest speaker where Historic St. Mary's City opened up the Brome Slave Quarters of which the program was called, "The Struggle for Freedom." Commissioner Funn said that he found out that the site had 59 slaves where it was one of the largest slave plantations in Southern Maryland. He shared that all of the counties were represented at this affair with recognition of the Piscataway Native Americans. At this affair, the MCAAHC was presented with the Cross Botany award that Director Compton received on behalf of the MCAAHC.

Commissioner Michael Kent

Commissioner Kent shared that he is also an MCAAHC Commissioner from Calvert County that works alongside Commissioner Malcolm Funn. He said that he was going to expound more on the Governor's Cabinet Meeting in Calvert County. Commissioner Kent said that the Governor's Cabinet made visits to multigenerational businesses. The first visit they made was to the Prince Frederick VFW Veterans Post that was started in 1947. Blacks were not allowed to join the white post. This post has been in existence up until this time.

Commissioner Kent shared that they went to Sewell Funeral home, which is a fifth generation family business and the last tour the group took was at the Reid and Reid Bus Company which is a fourth generation bus company that has 25 buses. Commissioner Kent said the reason that blacks had so many buses was the fact that when schools were integrated white drivers refused to pick up black students. Commissioner Kent rounded out his report by sharing that he and Commissioner Funn went with the Governor's Cabinet to a one room school house in Calvert County. He shared that he also is doing research on free blacks in Calvert County going back to the 1800's. Commissioner Kent said there were over 8,000 free blacks that were threatened and forbidden to make strides to do more things in Maryland because they were told that they would be placed back in slavery.

Commissioner Marilyn Hatza

Commissioner Marilyn Hatza shared that she also joined some of the great programming that the other MCAAHC Commissioners attended. She said that she will be attending and helping with the Maryland History Day program that is taking place at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Various schools, from all over the State of Maryland, will compete against each other at the middle school and high school grade level. These students spent a year doing research producing projects using primary resource materials.

Commissioner Hatza said that the group is looking for judges who can help judge from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The students who make significant progress at this affair go on to compete at the University of Maryland. She asked that all professionals, the MCAAHC Commissioners, lovers of history as well as the public please contact her if you would like to be a judge.

Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene

Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene began her report sharing that she is a story teller, a griot, a former president of the Griot Circle of Maryland and the president elect of the National Association of Black Storytellers. During Black History Month, she performed 15 times as Harriet Tubman across the State of Maryland as well as performed as Mother Mary Lange from the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore, Maryland.

Commissioner Greene shared that she received approval from the Office of the Superior General in the Catholic Church. She has had the pleasure of presenting for four Superior Generals and she also will be performing as Mother Mary Lange at Georgetown University for the renaming of one of their halls after that will be named after one of the Sisters of Providence. She will be traveling with a bus load of sisters from Catonsville to Georgetown for this special ceremony. Commissioner Greene said that she will be portraying Ms. Juanita Jackson, Civil Rights Pioneer, on behalf of Commissioner Iris Leigh Barnes at the Lillie Carroll Museum.

She also shared that she attended all of the various MCAAHC events and orientation sessions like her colleagues and she said that she looks forward to working with The BDM in having griots share stories there.

Commissioner Iris Leigh Barnes, Ph.D.

Commissioner Barnes shared that she is affiliated with several institutions and has attended many receptions, events, and trainings that the MCAAHC has had. She has partnered with the Lillie Carol Jackson Civil Rights Museum in Baltimore, Maryland that recently reopened in 2016. Commissioner Barnes said prior to Martin Luther King, there was Lillie Carol Jackson, Juanita Mitchell, and others who helped pave the way to the Civil Rights Movement. There are series of programs where she and others will be working with the community and students with an oral history project.

Commissioner Barnes said that in Hartford County, the Hosanna School Museum has obtained several sites to preserve that were up for tax sale. These sites are the: Restored Freedmen's School and the Mc Comas Institute in Joppa, Maryland.

Commissioner Barnes shared that the Hosanna School Museum has a big Juneteenth celebration on June 23rd where there will be Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass reenactors including Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene on that day. Commissioner Barnes said that she brought Ms. Camay Murphy, daughter of Mr. Cab Calloway, of which she has a special project in looking to have a statue erected of Negro League's Earnest Burke who is from Harve De Grace, Maryland.

Commissioner Maya Davis

Commissioner Maya Davis gave a report sharing that on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 the National Park Service is having its third of four Network to Freedom programs that documents the stories of flight to freedom in the United States of America. Commissioner Davis is focusing on the State of Maryland where the Maryland State Archives is trying to get 20 new nominations by 2020. Maryland is currently in the lead with 81 Network to Freedom sites; the State of Ohio is second with 80 sites. She would like to see the State of Maryland, be the champions of the stories of the Underground Railroad by continuing to lead with the most sites.

Commissioner Davis said that the Maryland State Archives is rereleasing Phoebe Jacobsen's book on African American families. The book contains more records and information where one can purchase the book on the web. Commissioner Davis finished her report by sharing that there is a new slave narrative in an historian's office in Auburn, New York of Jane Clark, and an escaped slave from Charles County Maryland. Commissioner Davis is glad to send the information for anyone that is interested.

Commissioner Elinor L. Thompson

Commissioner Thompson reported that she has attended many of the programs and events that have been shared by other MCAAHC Commissioners across the State of Maryland. She also said that she has been an avid supporter of The Banneker-Douglass Museum for many years. Commissioner Thompson said that she is also a genealogist where she has retraced history of many that one thinks of and don't know about. She said that she preserves church records where she said that the church is the core of our community's history of blacks and white. Commissioner Thompson said that the cemeteries and death certificates have the rich history that she documents.

Commissioner Thompson said that in response to Commissioner Frisby's projects that he mentioned such as the Belair Laurel De-Funct Cemetery she also documented information concerning this cemetery shared her grandfather, Father Noah Gaines of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, was interred at the cemetery.

Commissioner Thompson shared that she is just about finished with the second edition to her book: "In the 8th District Our African-American Church Communities in Southern Anne Arundel County." This book included, ministers of the original old Washington Conference that organized on October 27, 1864. She said another one of her ancestors was Reverend Benjamin Brown, Sr. of which she has preserved his original log. She stated that her first book signing was held at The Banneker Douglass Museum where the museum was filled to capacity. Commissioner Thompson also said that she was included in a two page article that was featured in the Capitol Newspaper.

Beyond this, Commissioner Thompson has exhibited original church history that included; old original church records, cemetery registers, Rosenwald Schools, the first Freedmen Bureau School Teacher as well as the history of the school. Commissioner Thompson said that the Freedmen Bureau School in Mill Swamp was the first school for colored people in Anne Arundel County. The school was established in 1865. The book also documents the original founders of Morgan State University.

Commissioner Cheryl McLeod

Commissioner Cheryl McLeod said that she has joined many of the great programs and events that the MCAAHC Commissioners have attended. She said that she will be speaking as a panelist at "The Politics of Activism" program that is taking place Saturday, May 5, 2018 at The Banneker-Douglass Museum from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. The program focuses on Frederick Douglass, his activism, and how it relates to today's time period. Commissioner McLeod said that she is working with the Howard County school system in looking at ways of presenting cultural inclusion in regards to racism. She is on a subcommittee, subcommittee, where she is doing a lot of activism in the community in terms of bringing restorative practices to the African American communities.

Nominations Committee

Chair Green called for Commissioner Steven X. Lee to introduce a nominations committee at the MCAAHC meeting. Commissioner Lee shared that in his two years of being an MCAAHC Commissioner, events came about that have underscored that there was a weakness in the process of MCAAHC Commissioner Nominations. He shared that when things like this happen, that it is important for organization to recognize it, address it, and try to bring resolve to the situation. The process that Commissioner Lee has presented is to put the nominations process back in the hands of the MCAAHC Commissioners. He feels that external forces should determine the direction of the MCAAHC. Commissioner Lee said that this is the whole objective organization.

Commissioner Herbert Frisby said that while he recognizes the initiative of Commissioner Lee and is fine with this particular objective of the MCAAHC using this process, the procedure is not legal and binding. Commissioner Frisby shared that the governor still has discretion as to who he can appoint.

Commissioner Malcolm Funn shared that if this is an amendment to the bylaws, according to MCAAHC manual, the MCAAHC Commissioners has 30 days to review the changes and then give their vote. Chair Dale Green said that the information was introduced and the 30 day window will be taken in consideration where a discussion can be had regarding this process where the MCAAHC will vote in June.

Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene asked if this process is for people who looking to become a MCAAHC Commissioner and serve on the MCAAHC Commission body. The MCAAHC Commissioners said yes. Commissioner Lee said that by giving the MCAAHC Commissioners the process of having the nominations committee, it expands the window of opportunities for greater autonomy in finding candidates that the MCAAHC Commissioners, the ex-officio and the public have a say and meet the significance of the MCAAHC.

New Business

Commissioner Mobarak, Harve de Grace Colored School Report

Commissioner Barbara Mobarak, former MCAAHC Commissioner came to the MCAAHC meeting sharing that she used to work with Commissioner Iris Barnes, Ph.D. at the historic Hosanna Museum in Harford County. She said that she fell in love with Harve de Grace and the rich African American History that was there. Commissioner Mobarak gave information sharing that the Harve de Grace colored school was established for blacks in 1910 although whites went to the school in 1896 for youth up to the eighth grade. For 60 years no one hadn't move forward to have the colored school turned into an African American Museum. In 2015, the community came together to look at the school and began to move forward with the initiative.

Wine festivals, programs, events, as well as family members that went to the school had affairs on the land of the school to raise funds towards preserving the school. Commissioner Mobarak shared that \$800,000 to \$900,000 was the cost to buy the Harve de Grace Colored School. The group was able to get the cost of the school down to \$153,000 where they were able to raise \$222,000. The group has site control where they now can pursue grants. Currently, she and the group are looking for someone who has a strong orientation for pre development to help this endeavor come to pass. Commissioner Mobarak said community participation is so important in order to make any project of this magnitude work.

Dr. Joan M.E. Gaither, 1864 Emancipation Quilt and Frederick Douglass Quilt Report

Dr. Joan M.E. Gaither, Documentary Story Quilter & member of the Annapolis Commission on Maryland's Constitution of 1864 overview of the Emancipation Quilt came to the MCAAHC meeting to share information on 1864 Emancipation Quilt.

Before sharing information on the Emancipation Quilt, Dr. Gaither said that the MCAAHC Commissioners worked feverishly on getting three Frederick Douglass Quilts completed. The quilts represents Anne Arundel County,

where Frederick Douglass spoke, Baltimore City where he lived and Talbot County where he was born. These quilts are currently on exhibit at the Maryland Visitor's Center on Route 301 in Centerville, Maryland. In addition to this, Dr. Gaither is working closely with Heather Erst, Vice President at the Maryland Office of Tourism where they are constructing a fourth Frederick Douglass quilt that will travel the State of Maryland for the rest of the year.

Dr. Gaither reported that on April 4, 2018 she is working with the Reginald Lewis Museum where they are preparing packets for 150 individuals to make a quilt square on Dr. Martin Luther King. In addition to this Senator Verda Freeman Welcome's quilt is on exhibit at Baltimore City Hall for Women's Month where it will be held there until April 16th.

Dr. Gaither said that the Emancipation Quilt has been traveling across the State of Maryland since November 1, 2014. At that time Ted Mack, Chair of the MCAAHC commissioned, Lyndra (née Pratt) Marshall, Commissioner and Dr. Gaither to begin the formulation of the team and work in producing the Emancipation Quilt. Chairman Mack gave the charge that the quilt would travel throughout the whole State of Maryland and reach every county.

Dr. Gaither shared that the commissioners who worked on the MCAAHC are no longer apart of the commission but she is looking for help from the new MCAAHC Commissioners to keep the charge of the quilt moving forward through every county in the State of Maryland. She said the community continues even though commissioners change. The quilt has traveled to the Wiley H. Bates in Anne Arundel County, Red Brick Court house in Montgomery County, Bowie State University in Prince George's County, Prince Frederick Library in Calvert County, Kennard Alumni Center in Queen Anne's County, Lexington Park Public Library in St. Mary's County, Hood College in Frederick County, Academy Art Museum and Live Again Arts Museum in Talbot County as well as has traveled to the Reginald Lewis Museum in Baltimore City. She shared that she is in conversation to have the quilt come to Cecil College in Harford County. Dr. Gaither brought a printout of the quilt to be displayed at the museum.

Dr. Gaither said that the quilt was designed by 426 people, covers 24 counties, and 24 organizations. The quilt still has 10 more places to go in the State of Maryland especially Western Maryland. She asked that the MCAAHC Commissioners please get in contact with her over the next few months. Chair Green thanked Dr. Gaither for all of the hours and dedication that she has been given to the MCAAHC for projects that continues to share the great African American History.

Commissioner Lee took the moment to recognize Dr. Joan Gaither for recently receiving a distinguished, prestigious heritage award in Maryland Heritage given by the Maryland State's Arts Council. The MCAAHC and the public recognized and acknowledged her for this great accomplishment.

Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson, called for a motion to adjourn the MCAAHC meeting. Commissioner Lopez Matthews made a motion that the MCAAHC being adjourned. The MCAAHC unanimously seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

LeRonn Herbert, Special Assistant