Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

 Regular Meeting

Minutes of June 5, 2017

A regular meeting was held on Monday, June 5, 2017 at the Academy Arts Museum, 106 South Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 a.m. by Madam Chairwoman Lyndra (née Pratt) Marshall. The following commissioners were in attendance: Kelsey Bush; Donna Cypress; Barbara Spencer Dunn; H. Russell Frisby; Vice Chair Dale Glenwood Green; Marilyn Hatza; Edwin T. Johnson; Melvin Kelly; Steven X. Lee; Cheryl McLeod; and Janet Sims-Wood.

**Proof of Public Notice**

Accepted by general consensus.

**Welcome**

LeRonn Herbert, Special Assistant for the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC), recognized Damika Baker, Director of Development for the Academy Arts Museum who welcomed the MCAAHC and the public to Historic Easton, Maryland and their facility. Director Baker thanked the public for coming and said that Director Ben Simmons sent his regards.

**Minutes of April 3, 2017 Meeting**

Chairwoman Marshall called for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous MCAAHC meeting of April 3, 2017. Commissioner Melvin Kelly made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Director’s Report**

Madam Chairwoman Lyndra (née Pratt) Marshall tabled the Director’s Report for further review. She then asked LeRonn Herbert, Outreach Coordinator of the Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM) to give the BDM Impact Report.

LeRonn presented how the museum is fairing in its visitation numbers last year versus this year. He said that the museum is building towards a great summer of docent guided tours and visitation from family reunions and youth summer camps.

LeRonn shared that the museum finished out the month of April with 750 visitors which was a 4% increase over last year’s visitation numbers vs. this year’s April. He then said that during the month of May there was a 21% decrease in visitation numbers and docent guided tours due to prom season and graduations that were taking place. LeRonn shared that the months of June and July look very good for groups such as: the Hillside Work Scholarship Connection that will be bringing 228 youth, Camp for Success that will bring 50 youth, and Celebree Learning Center that will bring 63 individuals to the Banneker-Douglass Museum.

LeRonn shared that he gave a walk through and a BDM docent guided tour to Executive Director Patrick Lally, Government, Policy, and Public Affairs Officer for Governor Larry Hogan and Executive Director Winston Wilkinson, Chief of Staff. The gentlemen enjoyed their tour and Executive Director Patrick Lally shared that he would like the GOCI interns to come to the BDM for a docent guided tour in the near future.

The MCAAHC commissioners joined Chairwoman Marshall and Vice Chair Green in presenting LeRonn Herbert with an award for outstanding service to the commission and the museum. Former Chair Ted Mack (whom LeRonn served under for much of his tenure) and Winston Wilkinson was asked to join the commission in a photo opportunity.

***Report of the Officers***

*MCAAHC Madam Chairwoman Lyndra (née Pratt) Marshall*

Chairwoman Marshall shared that she has participated in a little less than 200 events since the last MCAAHC meeting. She supported and attended many great historic events wherby the MCAAHC Commissioners have played a role in. Chairwoman Marshall also thanked the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives for sending her, Director Davis, and Vice Chair Dale Glenwood Green to the 91st ASALH luncheon.

Chairwoman Marshall highlighted the Family Tree Explosion that took place during Maryland Day weekend. This annual event is sponsored by 4 Rivers Heritage Area where it was held at the Galesville Community Center in Galesville, Maryland. There was a lot of attention and publicity shown towards this program, which resulted in additional genealogy workshops entitled “*Family Tree Friday’s.*” This program spotlighted the history of individuals in Anne Arundel and various counties.

Chairwoman Marshall helped support Dr. Joan M.E. Gaither, Documentary Story Quilter & with the production of two new quilts. The quilts are called *“The Emancipation Proclamation, The Next Chapter”* and *“The Life and Legacy of Senator Verda Freeman Welcome during the 110th Birthday Celebration at Morgan State University.”* Chairwoman Marshall shared that the Emancipation Quilt was exhibited at the Kennard High School Cultural Heritage Center and African American History Museum for six weeks and a hands-on workshop was conducted. She asked Dr. Gaither about the Historic Emancipation Quilt and the upcoming exhibition during Eaton’s Juneteenth Celebration.

Dr. Gaither shared that the Emancipation Quilt was unveiled on November 1, 2014 at the Maryland State House. She said that the quilt denotes the sesquicentennial of the freeing the slaves from Maryland in 1864. The quilt has been traveling since it’s unveiling throughout the State of Maryland where plans have been made for the quilt to move throughout every county in the state. Dr. Gaither shared that the quilt will be displayed on June 17, 2017 at the Academy Arts Museum for its Juneteenth Celebration.

Dr. Gaither presented the schedule for the remainder of 2017.

 August-Calvert County at the Chesapeake Maritime Museum under the direction of Commissioner Michael Kent.

October-Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland under the direction of Vice Chair Dale Green and Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson.

December-The Reginald F. Lewis Museum under the direction of Vice Chair Dale Green and Commissioners Edwin T. Johnson, Donna Cypress, Tamara England Wilson, Steve Lee, and Lopez Matthews.

Chairwoman Marshall asked Dr. Gaither how many individuals attended the workshop in Talbot County for the Emancipation Quilt square working session. Dr. Gaither said that 35 people came to the workshop and worked on the 18” x 18” square to be added as one of the 23 counties and Baltimore City.

*MCAAHC Vice Chair Dale Green*

Vice Chair Dale Green began his report by first recognizing and acknowledging Chairwoman Marshall’s birthday that fell on the date of the MCAAHC meeting.

He then gave his report by, bringing to the public’s attention that Senator Verda Welcome, the first female and black state delegate elected to the Maryland General Assembly in 1962 and Professor Mr. Benjamin Quarles, first generational historian, from Morgan State University collaborated together to have the MCAAHC and BDM legislated in 1969.

Vice Chair Green said that there are 21 MCAAHC Commissioners that represent 24 counties. To date, the MCAAHC has The Banneker-Douglass Museum which was founded in 1984, The Friends of the Banneker-Douglass Museum which was founded in 1979 and The Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation which was founded in 1974 that they govern. He also said that the MCAAHC has an annual $1 million dollar African American Heritage Preservation Grant (A.A.H.P.G.) that is used to preserve the African American history in the great State of Maryland.

Over the past six years, the A.A.H.P.G. has allocated $6 million dollars to the usage of the public for the preserving of Maryland’s African American History and Culture. Vice Chair Green said that from this grant, 81 grants have been awarded to 20 out of the 24 counties in the State of Maryland. The grant, to date, has created 435 jobs in the State of Maryland. Last year, the MCAAHC received $3.2 million dollars request for this grant. The public can apply for this part of the grant up until June 15,2017. In addition to the $1 million A.A.H.P.G., $979,000 has been secured for emergency funds through the Maryland Historic Trust. The completed application for Maryland Historic Trust must be submitted by August 14, 2017.

Vice Chair Green shared that the MCAAHC had a successful retreat facilitated by Brent Legs, Senior Preservation Officer with the Maryland Historic Trust. Through the retreat, the MCAAHC was proud to learn that they are one of nine commissions, the first of its kind, to be an African American commission in the United States.

Vice Chair Green shared that the MCAAHC has some great things that they are working on such as: the Bicentennial Celebration of Frederick Douglass which Governor Larry Hogan is declaring 2019 to be the year of Frederick Douglass in Maryland, the Emancipation Quilt that is traveling across the counties of Maryland as well as the partnership with the Association for the Study & Life of African American History focusing on the theme of the “The Crisis of Education In African American History & Culture.” He said that education is the civil rights charge where the MCAAHC is working on mentoring stations to continue to discover, document, promote, and interpret African American History in the State of Maryland.

Vice Chair Green shared that he and Madam Chairwoman Marshall went before Larry Hogan, Governor for the State of Maryland; Nancy Kopp, the Treasurer for the State of Maryland; and Peter Franchot, the Comptroller for the State of Maryland at a Board of Public Works meeting sharing the great things the MCAAHC was able to do with the A.A.H.P. G. for the citizens of the State of Maryland.

Vice Chair Green said that the Eastern Shore hosts three iconic figures that are very significant in African American history. First he spoke of Frederick Douglass, from Talbot County, who said that once you learn to read you will be forever free. Then he spoke of Reverend Samuel Green, from Dorchester County, that was placed in jail for reading Uncle Tom’s Cabin and last but not least Bishop Alexander Wayman, from Caroline County, who often quoted from Hosea 4:6 “*My people perish for lack of knowledge*.”

Vice Chair Green shared that all A.A.H.P.G. workshops have been concluded and after July 15, the MCAAHC A.A.H.P.G. Review and Ranking Committee will be getting together to meet concerning the ranking and scoring on these applications. He also said that the MCAAHC has been working on other endeavors such as the Henrietta Lacks movie that recently came out, a Harriette Tubman movie that is in the works for filming, and a Frederick Douglass movie to come out in the near future.

Vice Chair Green said that he and Chairwoman Marshall visited the National Museum on African American History & Culture with a group of 300 people to review and enjoy their exhibits. He admonished the public to go and visit this new museum. He also gave a report that Dr. Henry Louis Gates will be coming to Morgan State University to give a talk in the fall of 2017.

**Report of Committees**

*Commissioner Donna Cypress*

Commissioner Donna Cypress shared that the Lillie Carol Jackson Civil Rights Museum has been a recipient of the Baltimore Heritage Grant worth $10,000. This award was in line with the Baltimore National Heritage Area commitment to preserving the legacy of history in Baltimore City as well as historical areas in the United States. Commissioner Cypress shared that this grant helps the museum to build towards having a permanent exhibit gallery produced while the museum continues to strive towards obtaining an executive director.

Commissioner Cypress said that the Lillie Carol Jackson Civil Rights Museum is located at 1320 Eutaw Place in Baltimore City. The significance of the museum is that Ms. Lillie Carol Jackson was a pioneer and president of the N.A.A.C.P. from 1935-1970. Ms. Jackson allowed her home to be used for organizing civil rights endeavors and meetings. She was also a mentor of legal scholars such as: Mr. Charles Houston and Mr. Thurgood Marshall.

Ms. Jackson died at the age of 85. She left a will, with her daughter, Virginia stating that she wanted her home to be used as the center for civil rights activities as well as be turned into a museum. Ms. Jackson lived in the house from 1963-1975. The house became a civil rights museum in 1978. Virginia kept the museum open, free of charge, so that the public would know of the historical significance that took place in the city of Baltimore. Morgan State University helped the museum by making renovations that accentuated the great home of this civil rights leader.

In addition to this program, Commissioner Cypress shared that she also participated recently by attending several other events. She said that she was a part of the bicentennial celebration meeting for Frederick Douglass at Morgan State University, saw the Historical Black College and University documentary that was shown at the Maryland Institute College of Art during the Maryland Film Festival, and attended a book signing and author’s talk about Misty Copeland’s book “Ballerina Bayou an event held at the Enoch Pratt Library”.

*Commissioner Barbara Spencer Dunn*

Commissioner Barbara Spencer Dunn reported that, as Vice Chair Green said, the MCAAHC is focusing on the Association for the Study and Life of African American History’s theme: *“The Crisis in Black Education.”* Ways that this is being accomplished is by empowering youth through a youth group called Kiamsha. Kiamsha is a youth organization whose motto is “the blending of generations to empower our youth. Their mission is “Use history, peer and intergenerational interaction to empower youth to abstain from sex, drugs, violence, and prejudice. This organization has reached 25,000 individuals and is not only known for its work that is done in the State of Maryland but recognized nationally across the United States of America. On May 7, 2017, Kiamsha celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a black tie affair.

Additionally, Commissioner Dunn said that while the MCAAHC was founded by Senator Verda Freeman Welcome who partnered with Dr. Benjamin Quarles, Dr. Benjamin Quarles studied under his mentor Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Commissioner Dunn also said that she sits on the Rosenwald School Committee for MCAAHC where she is looking to visit every Rosenwald School in Maryland. She would like to assist the docents enhance the script used to guide the tours at each school to tell that school’s story within the context of the times as described by Rayford Logan, the nadir-the lowest point of race relations in the United States.

The Rosenwald school history tells the story of importance of the community in building these significant schools in communities across the U.S. by helping share the rich history of how the schools were started with Julius Rosenwald. Commissioner Dunn said that Julius Rosenwald was a board member of A.S.A.L.H. and a financial supporter of the Journal of Negro Afro Life and History. She said that she is proud to be a commissioner on the Maryland Commission on African American History & Culture reaching out sharing Maryland’s rich African American history.

*Commissioner Marilyn Hatza*

Commissioner Marilyn Hatza gave a report on Maryland History Day. She shared that Maryland History Day is supported by Maryland Humanities Council, a statewide Maryland non-profit organization. Maryland History Day is an annual program that engages 27,000 Maryland high schools and middle schools students. A theme is established each year where these students do primary research on subject matter in five categories. The students can create documentaries, exhibits, performances, research papers, or websites. They are judged against each other in the categories of middle schools or high schools at the local and statewide level. The event is held at the University of Maryland in Baltimore County. The theme for this year was *“Taking a Stand in History.”* The MCAAHC sponsored two prizes for this program.

Chairwoman Marshall attended this affair and presented the awards to these students. The middle school students from Somerset County produced a project on Madam C.J. Walker where they were a recipient of an award. The high school students from Caroline County produced a website on the Emancipation Proclamation where they were a recipient of an award. Commissioner Hatza shared that it was a very exciting and engaging day to see 27,000 students run around campus doing research for a good cause.

*Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson*

Commissioner Edwin Johnson reported that he has been in the midst of several programs that have taken place for Morgan State University’s Sesquicentennial Celebration. He said that he attended a Proclamation Ceremony on April 30, 2017 recognizing nine unknown students who attended classes at the Sharp Street Church on April 30, 1867. These students would further the church’s history of which Morgan State University was officially established. Commissioner Johnson said that Vice Chair Dale Green served as one of the representatives of the unknown students at this program.

Commissioner Johnson also shared that Morgan State University was one of nine Historically Black colleges and universities established in the year of 1865. He said that there are more programs that will come that have been moved to the month of October. Commissioner Johnson said that more programs will take place in places where Morgan State’s presence was there. They include Lynchburg, Virginia and Prince Anne, Maryland.

Commissioner Johnson said that there are greater opportunities for the public and the MCAAHC to participate in by buying a brick for Morgan State University’s Plaza for Senator Verda Freeman Welcome. He even said that a tree will be planted on the first nine historically black colleges and universities because of their historical significance. This gift is being offered by the Federal Government and the new administration of President Donald Trump.

Lastly, Commissioner Johnson shared that he has been getting telephone calls and has been attending the A.A.H.P.G. meetings where people are learning about applying for the grant.

*Commissioner Cheryl McLeod*

Commissioner Cheryl McLeod gave a report where she shared that she works for the Maryland State Education Association in Howard County Maryland. She said that, at times, there were some racial situations that were taking place with the students of Howard County and the county was not prepared. The schools, the board of education, and the faith base community came together to have discussions on how to deal with these pressing issues and how things can be changed.

There were several committees produced to address the issues of diversity and inclusion in the classroom. One of the major driving forces in bringing about change were the students of the Howard County schools. The students were very vocal and demanding where it was expressed that there was a void in curriculum development. It was suggested that there be teaching and workshops that would be conducted for the students where feedback would be given to the Howard County Board of Education on how they could integrate inclusion into their school programs.

Commissioner McLeod said that there was a number of committees formed to help diffuse racial issues. She also explained that there is a push for an ethnic minority strand where the students can either take an African American History class or major in African American studies. The Howard County School System Diversity and Inclusion Committee have initially done its job in bringing the issues to the table; now subcommittees are working to help bring about a change. The committees are run by the students where the first and the last voices are the student’s voices. One can go to the Howard County Board of Education for a report on the progress.

Commissioner McLeod shared that Dr. Michael J. Martirano is the interim superintendent for the Howard County Public School System. Commissioner Kelsey Bush shared that Dr. Martirano is a very progressive leader that follows through on a vision in spite of what others may think or feel. Commissioner Bush said that he has served with him for a decade. Commissioner Bush said that he tackled issues that other colleagues would have stayed away from. He feels that he will be an asset to the Howard County School System.

Commissioner McLeod also gave a report that she attended Georgetown University’s Service on Slavery. She shared that the Jesuits had 272 enslaved individuals that built the university. After building Georgetown University, enslaved individuals were eventually sent away and sold to New Orleans for the university needed money. Commissioner McLeod asked Chairwoman Marshall, who attended the service with her husband Mr. Roger Marshall, to share information about the program as well.

Chairwoman Marshall said that her husband’s family, descends from Isaac Hawkins, one of the enslaved individuals at Georgetown University. She said that Mr. Marshall was able to meet a lot of his relatives who were from St. Mary’s County that attended the ceremonial program. In showing respect to what had been done to these individuals there were two halls named after two enslaved individuals; these halls are now called: Isaac Hawkins Hall and Anne Marie Becraft Hall.

Commissioner McLeod said that Isaac Hawkins is one of the enslaved individuals listed as being owned by Georgetown University. He was born in 1770 and lived until 1850. His name was given to him representing the biblical character Isaac who was Abraham’s son that was going to be sacrificed on Mt. Moriah. Isaac Hawkins did not come out of slavery but was chosen because his name shows up first on the bill of sale representing 272 individuals.

Commissioner McLeod also said that the other Hall was named after Anne Marie Becraft. Anne Marie Becraft was a free woman of color who established a school in the town of Georgetown for black girls. It was shared that Anne Marie moved to Baltimore, Maryland to join the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the oldest active Roman Catholic sisterhood in the Americas established by women of African descent. Anne Marie was one of America’s first black nuns.

Commissioner McLeod gave a report on the Henrietta Lack’s movie that she saw with Commissioner Steven Lee at Turner Station in Dundalk, Maryland. The movie was produced by Oprah Winfrey. There was a room for a great meal prepared where the family, friends, and public fellowshipped before watching the movie. Commissioner McLeod shared that the movie showed that Henrietta Lack’s oldest daughter, Elsie went to Crownsville Hospital where she received treatment for her mental issues.

Commissioner Steven Lee shared that the Henrietta Lack’s movie was well done and very powerful to the place and point that he felt that this was the best thing Oprah Winfrey has done. He said that this movie allowed the public to: come together in unity, come together sharing their history as well as come together in the diversity of age and perspective.

Commissioner McLeod shared that she had an opportunity to go to a program honoring Coretta Scott King on behalf of Chairwoman Marshall who could not attend due to scheduling conflicts. She said that the movement that put on this program is called “Black Women for Positive Change.” Reverend Dr. Barbara Reynolds co-authored the book, “Black Women for Positive Change” with Coretta Scott King. The program was done to honor her life, her love, and her legacy. Coretta Scott King pushed for legislation of her husband Dr. Martin Luther King to have a national holiday named after him. This endeavor took effect November 2, 1983 by President Ronald Reagan.

*Commissioner Janet Sims-Wood*

Commissioner Janet Sims-Wood shared that she, Commissioner Edwin Johnson, and some of the MCAAHC Commissioners had the opportunity to serve on the 110th Birthday Celebration by being a part of the Verda Freeman Welcome Committee. She also said that she had acquired a small grant where she was able to extend the celebration of Senator Verda Welcome by having a panel discussion that consisted of: Commissioner Herbert Frisby, Dr. Joan Gaither, and Senator Verda Welcome’s daughter Ms. Mary Welcome. At this celebration, Dr. Gaither displayed two quilts that she made of Senator Verda Welcome. Commissioner Sims-Wood shared that there is a video of Senator Verda Welcome’s Celebration given by Morgan State University on You-Tube. She said that she and the Senator Verda Welcome Committee are doing everything to make sure that her rich history is not forgotten.

*Commissioner Melvin Kelly*

Commissioner Melvin Kelly shared that he continues to support the MCAAHC as well as serve as Sunday School Teacher for the Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Severn, Maryland. He said that the he will continue the charge of the MCAAHC by bringing his Sunday school class to the Wye Plantation which is the very place that Frederick Douglass was born as well as visit the Harriet Tubman Visitor’s Center.

*Commissioner Herbert Frisby*

Commissioner Herbert Frisby asked that the MCAAHC and public thank Commissioner Sims-Wood for a great program she gave at the Prince George’s County Community College. He said that it was his pleasure to be considered as a panelist sharing thoughts and discussion about Senator Verda Welcome with Dr. Joan Gaither and Ms. Mary Welcome, Senator Welcome’s daughter.

Commissioner Frisby said that there were many powerful black women in the 1960’s that pioneered many great exploits in African American and American history who have paved the way like Senator Verda Welcome. He said that it was his pleasure to have known and communed with Senator Welcome where he and many others affectionately called her “Verda”. Commissioner Frisby looks forward in helping to share the great history and significance that Senator Verda Welcome spread abroad to the state and country.

*Commissioner Steven X. Lee*

Commissioner Lee shared that most of his work has been on a project called “Local Legacies in Maryland” where he is working with the Heritage Museum in Maryland. This is a project that visits local properties and agencies across the State of Maryland capturing the rich African American History in Maryland. Commissioner Lee said that the Heritage Museum has been partnering with Maryland Public Television and the Library of Congress.

Commissioner Lee said that the Heritage Museum has been trying to drum up support across the State of Maryland for this particular project. Initially, when people here of the project, they are very interested but as soon as they see that it is an African American organization that is producing things change they seem to decline the offer. Commissioner Lee said that he took on the project because he found it interesting that the scope of the project allows them to go into various local agency sites and draw on their rich history.

Commissioner Lee said that the Heritage Museum has worked with a couple of organizations such as the Ward Brothers Museum in Salisbury, Maryland who do decoy carvings and the Chestertown, Maryland Tea Party celebration that takes place every year around Memorial Day weekend sharing how the residents of Chestertown gathered together to protest the importing, buying, and the drinking of tea coming from England. Commissioner Lee said that Chestertown, Maryland has tremendous free black history that has been untapped. He looks forward to uncovering and sharing this information with the public.

*Commissioner Kelsey Bush*

Chairwoman Marshall asked that Commissioner Kelsey Bush give a report on his tenure of being an MCAAHC Commissioner*.* Commissioner Bush shared that he been an MCAAHC Commissioner for nine years. When he started his journey, his first meeting was in a bare room at the BDM where there were only four MCAAHC Commissioners at that time. When he looks around the room seeing that the MCAAHC has 16 commissioners, he said that it shows how far that the MCAAHC has come.

Commissioner Bush said he becoming an MCAAHC Commissioner began by chance by him attending a poetry reading by Nikki Giovanni. In speaking with someone at this event from the Maryland Historical Trust, they shared that the State of Maryland needed someone from Southern Maryland to join the MCAAHC to have a fair amount of representation from the state. At that time, there was only representation from Annapolis, Baltimore City and Prince George’s County in covering African American History of Maryland by the MCAAHC. Commissioner Bush said that when he came aboard with the MCAAHC there was a person from the Eastern Shore that came aboard. He said that one of the missions of the MCAAHC was to have a grant establish to preserve and interpret history that did not look like others history at that time.

Commissioner Bush said that the fact that the MCAAHC is about to reach 50 years of excellence is impactful. He also said that the fact that the MCAAHC is trying to reach every part of the State of Maryland by having a commissioner from every county is tremendous. Commissioner Bush said that if Southern Maryland is the birth place, the heart of African American history being established, then the rest of the counties are the veins and arteries that continue to share the history. He said that if we only celebrate the success we are doomed to fail and repeat the same history over and over again. Commissioner Bush said that we need not be inclusive but exclusive of our history. He said that we all: Latino, Native American, Caucasian, and African American need to push all history where we all are represented then we all have arrived together.

Commissioner Bush said that this is not goodbye in leaving the MCAAHC, it is see you later! He will stay intrinsically attached to the work and support of the MCAAHC. Commissioner Bush finished his report by sharing that he was invited by the St. Mary’s College to attend a program, in the near future, that will recognize unknown blacks that were assigned to the college. This was found when the college was excavating the land to build a stadium. There were two communities at large that opened up a meeting to the public. Dr. Tuajuanda Jordan, President of St. Mary’s College has taken a strong lead where the stadium, for the college, is being moved further back so that research, that is being done on that land, can be preserved and a ceremony given about what happened on the land.

*Special Presentation*

The MCAAHC commissioners joined Chairwoman Marshall and Vice Chair Green in presenting Commissioner Kelsey Bush with an award for his longstanding faithful service. Former Chair Ted Mack (whom Commissioner Busch served under for seven of the nine years) was asked to give remarks. He and Winston Wilkinson was asked to join the commission in a photo opportunity.

Vice Chair Green with Chairwoman Marshall and the MCAAHC took a moment to recognize LeRonn Herbert, Special Assistant for five years, going on to six years of service, to the MCAAHC. He was awarded a plaque and pictures were taken of him, the MCAAHC Commissioners and former MCAAHC Chairperson, Mr. Ted Mack. LeRonn, thanked Chairwoman Marshall, Vice Chair Dale Green, the MCAAHC Commissioners, and Executive Director Winston Wilkinson for the opportunity serve as Special Assistant of the MCAAHC. He shared that he was humbled and honored to be thought of.

**New Business**

*Henrietta Lack’s Annual Celebration*

Chairwoman Marshall shared that the Henrietta Lack’s Celebration will be taking place on Saturday, August 5th. The Henrietta Lack’s Committee has asked the MCAAHC and the Lieutenant Governor Boy K. Rutherford to participate in their program. Chairwoman Marshall said that an email will be sent out with more details.

*MCAAHC 50 th Anniversary Celebration in 2019*

Chairwoman Marshall shared that the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the MCAAHC will take place in 2019. She said that the MCAAHC has already started developing their committee to help with this endeavor. Mary Welcome, Senator Verda Welcome’s daughter has asked if she could be a part of the planning of this event. Some of the women of the MCAAHC said that they would help chair this event. Chairwoman Marshall asked the men if they would help chair the event by helping preparing the information for Dr. Benjamin Quarles who assisted Senator Verda Welcome with having the MCAAHC and the BDM legislated. There will be more information and discussion in the near future.

**Presentations**

*Eastern Shore Network for Change*

Keisha Petticolas, Co-Founder of the Eastern Shore Network for Change came before the MCAAHC on behalf of her partner Dion Banks. She shared that their organization will spotlight the civil rights activity that took place 50 years ago on Pine Street in Cambridge, Maryland on July 24, 1967.  Eastern Shore Network for Change will be having their “50 Years After the Fire: A Commemoration of Our History”, a commemoration of the fire on Pine Street July 21-24, 2017, in Cambridge, Maryland. Pine Street is a part of the Art’s District where the Eastern Shore Network for Change has gone to the city of Cambridge to fund this event. The weekend will feature walking tours, art exhibits, book readings, a gala dinner, unity service, gospel concert, and a prayer breakfast. To find out more detailed information about this celebratory weekend, please go to www.esnccambridgemd.com.

*Denton Colored School*

Derrick Collin, from the Denton Colored School, attended a MCAAHC meeting last year asking for funding to help the endeavors of preserving the history of the school. He said that in researching the school’s history that it was once known as the Kennard School. He came to this MCAAHC meeting to share that the Denton Colored School did in fact receive some funding last year from the African American Heritage Preservation grant. As they prepare for phase two of their project they will be submitting another grant application this year. He thanked the MCAAHC for their continued support towards the Denton Colored School and its undertakings.

*Frederick Douglass Family Foundation, Inc.*

Terrance Bailey, great, great, grandson of Fred Bailey, who was the oldest brother of Frederick Douglass. As a member of the Frederick Douglass Family Foundation, Inc., he shared the Bicentennial Celebration of Frederick Douglass in commemoration of his 200th birthday on February 14, 2018. Terrance shared that Major General Linda Singh, first female general has consented to attend this affair, the 54th Massachusetts Regiment Army will be present to present colors, and President Obama’s administration has reached out where they will share what role that they would like to play.

Terrance shared that his cousin Kenneth Morris, great, great grandson of Booker T. Washington and great, great, great, grandson of Frederick Douglass has an initiative where he is looking to put a copy of Frederick Douglass Autobiography in the hands of students in Talbot County, the whole State of Maryland as well as have it distributed nationwide.

*Frederick Douglass Honor Society*

Vicki Wilson, from the Frederick Douglass Honor Society, shared information about the things that the organization has been doing. She first said that the organization was established in 2009 where they were able to have a statue of Frederick Douglass placed on the lawns of the Talbot County Court House. Over the past years, the society has partnered with the Academy Arts Museum for their Juneteenth program. In 2016, the celebration was assisted with the Ruth Starr Rose exhibit where the students were engaged to participate with this exhibit, and assisted with the exhibit by Bernie Satchell “These Are A Few of My Favorite Things.” Ms. Wilson said that the honor society council in looking to do programming for the Bicentennial Celebration of Frederick Douglass.

*Recognition of Guests*

Chairwoman Marshall recognized the following guests who attended the meeting:

• Roberta Wongus, Pastor, New Zion United Methodist Church

• Winston Wilkinson, Chief of Staff, the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives

• Keith Colston, Director of Ethnic Commissions, the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives

• Ted Mack, former Chairman of the MCAAHC

• Roger Marshall Sr., Husband of Madame Chairwoman Lyndra (née Pratt) Marshall

• Dr. Joan M.E. Gaither, Documentary Story Quilter & member of the Annapolis Commission on Maryland’s

 Constitution of 1864 overview of the Emancipation Quilt

• Jacqueline Cooley, supporter of the MCAAHC

• Derrick Brummell, restorer of the Denton Colored School

• Rev. John H. Brooks, New Revival United Methodist Church

• George Collins, President, International Association of African American Fire Fighters

• Alma Cropper, Director, Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center

• Roshanne Redmond, Historic Rehoboth Development

• Carolyn E. Wright, visitor

• Keisha Petticolas, Eastern Network for Change

• Willie Woods, visitor

• Vickie J. Wilson, Presenter for Frederick Douglass High School

• Betty Bland-Thomas, interest in history

• Carole A. Jeffries, visitor

Chairwoman Marshall asked LeRonn Herbert, Special Assistant to acknowledge the guests that came to the MCAAHC meeting. Since there were many guests that came in later during the MCAAHC meeting, Chairwoman Marshall asked the guest to stand and share who they were.

Chairwoman Marshall gave room for Ted Mack, former chairman of the MCAAHC, to share words on a project he is working on with Mr. Chip Bohl, CEO of Bohl Architects in Annapolis, Maryland regarding the Frederick Douglass-Roger Taney statue. Mr. Mack asked the question how many individuals favor having history removed from the State House? No one raised their hands. He shared that this was his sentiment as well. Instead, Mr. Mack and Mr. Bohl would like to see the possibilities of a statue of Frederick Douglass and Roger Taney facing each other, opposing each other across the walk way of the State House. Mr. Mack shared to look forward to more information in the future.

There being no further business to come before the commission, Chairwoman Marshall, called for a motion to adjorn the MCAAHC meeting. Commissioner Herbert Frisby made a motion that the MCAAHC being adjorned. Commissioner Edwin Johnson seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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LeRonn Herbert, Special Assistant