

Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture  
Public Meeting  
Minutes of August 6, 2018

A public meeting was held on Monday, August 6, 2018 at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, 9 College Backbone Road, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853.

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m. by Chair Dale Glenwood Green. The following commissioners were in attendance: Iris Leigh Barnes, Lynn Bowman, Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara England Wilson, H. Russell Frisby, Malcolm Funn, Janice Curtis Greene, Michael Kent, Melvin Kelly, Edwin T. Johnson, Steven X. Lee, Lopez Matthews, Cheryl McLeod, and Elinor L. Thompson.

**Proof of Public Notice**

Accepted by general consensus.

**Welcome**

**Dr. Joanne Martin, President, The National Great Blacks In Wax**

LeRonn Herbert, turned the floor over to Dr. Joanne Martin, President of The National Great Blacks In Wax, who gave a formal welcome at the MCAAHC meeting. She thanked the MCAAHC for coming to The National Great Blacks In Wax Mansion for its meeting in Baltimore City. Dr. Martin shared the rich history that The Mansion was built in 1892 and in 1935, it was owned by the Sander's family where The Mansion was turned into a funeral home. In 1965, The Mansion then became the Sander's and Son Funeral Home.

Mr. Sander's had a rule that his family funeral home business would never service African Americans in his building. Dr. Martin shared that several decades later, the very funeral home now a mansion, has become property to The National Great Blacks In Wax. Dr. Martin shared that The National Great Blacks In Wax is available for the MCAAHC in helping with its initiatives.

**Ms. Nell Ziehl, Chief Office of Planning, Education and Outreach, Maryland Historical**

Ms. Nell Ziehl, Chief, Office of Planning, Education and Outreach, Maryland Historical Trust came to the MCAAHC meeting to share information on the State of Maryland's statewide historic preservation plan. She shared that every five years, the historic preservation plan is a part of the State of Maryland, National Park Service, and federal government mandate that a plan be devised with the community. This plan is designed to set goals, recommendations, strategies, and action for all in the heritage business. Ms. Ziehl said that she has conducted a number of interviews with stake holders from various institutions, focus groups, and businesses on certain topic areas for those involved in archaeology and preservation.

The Maryland Historical Trust will be having meetings where the public is invited to share their ideas and suggestions across the State of Maryland. One can find out about the meetings by going to: [www.mht.maryland.gov](http://www.mht.maryland.gov). Ms. Ziehl said that she and Chair Green are currently setting up focus groups for African American History in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, and Washington County. These group meetings will take place in July.

LeRonn Herbert acknowledged Commissioner Marilyn Hatza who joined the meeting.

**Delegate Daryl Barnes, Chairman, Maryland Legislative Black Caucus**

Chair Dale Green acknowledged Delegate Daryl Barnes, Chairman, Maryland Legislative Black Caucus to give a presentation. He thanked the MCAAHC for the opportunity to speak. Delegate Barnes said that he was elected Chair of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus in April and was very happy to serve in that capacity. He shared that one of his efforts with the Legislative Black Caucus is to collectively get more information and resources to African Americans in all parts of the State of Maryland. Delegate Barnes said that he recently received a call from someone in Western Maryland that said that they are in need of State of Maryland funding to get their African American museum going. He said that the individual shared that there appeared to be a road block in getting financial assistance. Delegate Barnes said that he was very disturbed by this because he felt, that it seems, as if African Americans have to continually fight for funding, to tell their story and he felt that this was not right.

Delegate Barnes said that in working at the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, he would like to see that everyone has a seat at the table and be heard. He shared that he is putting together a strategic plan where the NAACP, Urban League, ACLU, Fraternities, Sororities, Pastors, and Non Profits can collaboratively work together. He would like to see the work continue on beyond him to other future leaders so that they have a platform to work with. Delegates Barnes would like to keep in touch with the MCAAHC so that he can have the group continue to pool various African American resources so that others do not tell the African American story.

Commissioner Steven X. Lee thanked Delegate Barnes for his approach in looking to bring African American resources together. He asked if Delegate Barnes would consider looking into State of Maryland grant funding. Commissioner Lee said that he found that there is a tremendous amount of State of Maryland funding that goes to mainstream organizations and not non-governmental agencies. He has been tracking this trend, since 1992, where 1% of non-governmental organizations, especially African American organizations, are receiving small amounts of funding. Commissioner Lee said that there are millions of dollars going to other organizations in the State of Maryland of which he feels is not right.

### **Minutes of October 2, 2017 Meeting**

Chair Dale Green called for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous MCAAHC meeting of October 2, 2017. Commissioner H. Russell Frisby made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

### **Minutes of April 2, 2018 Meeting**

Chair Dale Green called for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous MCAAHC meeting of April 2, 2018. Commissioner H. Russell Frisby made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene seconded the motion and the motion carried.

### **Director's Report**

Ms. Chanel Compton, Executive Director of the MCAAHC and the Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM), began her Director's Report by saying that she is the executive director for the BDM and the MCAAHC. Director Compton said that she will be giving some highlights to the activities and goals for the months of April and May for the Banneker-Douglass Museum.

Director Compton said that one of the major goals that the BDM has been working on was creating a full time position for marketing and communications. She said that that particular task has been accomplished. Mr. Robert James, who attended the MCAAHC meeting, has come aboard from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention to take on the helm as BDM's Director of Marketing and Communications.

Director Compton said that this is the "Year of Frederick Douglass" where the BDM and the MCAAHC are producing and presenting Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Public Programs for our local and national regions. She said that we are a community hub for all things Frederick Douglass where there will be programs of art, culture, and social justice materials produced or displayed.

Director Compton shared that the month of April was Jazz Appreciation Month where many individuals attended Jazz Concerts and programs throughout the State of Maryland. She said that the BDM had a Jazz Concert that featured the local Highland Beach R&B Jazz group called: TBD. BDM also had a Family Day program that celebrated Matthew Henson as the co-discoverer of the North Pole for Matthew Henson Day where Gabby Henson, direct descendant came and participated.

During the month of May, the museum hosted three, educational, teaching series on Frederick Douglass called: "Teaching That Inspires". Educators as well as the public were able to attend this affair. This program consisted of the Association for The Study and Life of African American History's, Dr. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham teaching on the autobiography of Frederick Douglass. In addition to this and as a continuation from these sessions, a trip was included for all participants of the sessions to take a trip and go to Dr. Carter G. Woodson's home as well as visit Frederick Douglass' Anacostia home.

Director Compton shared that the BDM is making their programming more inter-generational and have partnered with the St. John's College to have "Generation Douglass" Panel Discussion featuring youth, young adults, and adults sharing

their history on how Frederick Douglass relates to each one of them. Ms. Jada Jackson, Baltimore Youth Activist; Dr. Clara Small, former professor of Salisbury University; Dr. Dale Green, Chair of the MCAAHC; and Mr. Lou Fields, Heritage Tourism Consultant participated in this affair.

Last but not least, the BDM will be spotlighting Frederick Douglass through a new exhibition called: "The Douglass Reading Room." The opening reception is on Saturday, June 9, 2018 from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. This exhibit is curated by Greg Morton, an owner of one of Frederick Douglass' home. This exhibit features artwork by artists: John T. Biggers; Romare Bearden; Elizabeth Catlett; Jamea Richmond-Edwards; Joan M.E. Gaither, E.D.; Jacob Lawrence; Amy Sherald; Derrick Adams; Emory Douglas; Arvay Adams; and Makeba Rainey. For the month of June, the BDM will be having conferences and various programs for our youth.

The Banneker-Douglass Museum has been working with the Department of General Services and the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives to begin preparations in fixing the various areas of the church which is part of the museum.

Director Compton took a moment to recognize Mr. Winston Wilkinson, Chief of Staff for the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives who attended the meeting.

Director Compton shared that the museum will be having BDM's Community Day featuring local and State of Maryland performers on Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Harambe' Reading Group will be presenting on that day doing a call and response reading. On Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, the BDM will be hosting the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Creative Arts Competition orientation where youth and young adults will be able to show their vast knowledge of African American history. Also on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> the BDM will be hosting its second exhibition opening of the Douglass Reading Room.

On Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, the BDM will be having its Inaugural Youth Conference where youth will come from various parts of the State of Maryland. This program will consist of college and career breakout sessions as well as youth presentations. The Banneker Douglass Museum is in partnership with the Baltimore City Non Profits for this program. On Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> - Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture will be having its leadership conference at the Banneker-Douglass Museum.

Director Compton finished her report in sharing that in 2019, the MCAAHC will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The commission will be producing and highlighting the efforts of the commission through a series of programming with a culminating gala.

### ***Report of the Officers***

#### *MCAAHC Chair Dale Green*

Chair Dale Green began his report by sharing that he, Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara England Wilson, and Director Chanel Compton have been meeting weekly as the Governance Committee. At this meeting Director Compton shared the various programming that will take place with the BDM as well as the MCAAHC.

Chair Green said that this is the "Year of Frederick Douglass" where there is a year, long, Bicentennial Celebration taking place where it will end February 2019. He said that the MCAAHC will be working to establish a culminating event committee to end out this great celebration.

Chair Green said that the commission has been asked to have a seat on the Baltimore Confederate Statues Panel. He will be representing the MCAAHC on their committee where their first meeting will take place on the week of June 11<sup>th</sup>. Chair Green is happy to know that the MCAAHC has been asked to be a part of this group.

Chair Green said that he has been asked by General Singh to honor the historic African American Cemeteries of those who were gave military service. General Singh invited Chair Green to visit an African American cemetery in Carroll County where there were African American soldiers from the Civil War buried there. She looks forward to working with the MCAAHC on a statewide level concerning this recognition.

Chair Green brought to the public's attention that the deadline for applying for the African American Heritage Preservation grant is Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. The African American Heritage Grant Committee will be called to work on the process of reviewing and ranking the applicants.

Chair Green said that the MCAAHC Commission's Retreat has been postponed until there is a full representation of the commission. A doodle poll will be used to try to determine the best date for the commissioners. Chair Green said that in the commissioner's packet one will find a list of all of the various chairs and committees that each MCAAHC Commissioner has joined. Committee chairs will be presenting their information of their respective committee at the MCAAHC public meetings.

Chair Green called for Commissioner Michael Kent to join him at the podium where a special presentation of a plaque was given to him in honor of his service to Southern Maryland, the MCAAHC, and the State of Maryland.

Chair Green also called for Commissioner Lynn Bowman to join him at the podium where a special presentation of a plaque was given to her in honor of his service to Western Maryland, the MCAAHC, and the State of Maryland.

Chair Green then called for Mr. Theodore Mack to join him at the podium. He presented a plaque to Mr. Mack recognizing him as Honorary Chairman Emeritus of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, his service to the State of Maryland, and for being the visionary founder of the \$1 million African American Heritage Preservation Grant that was established.

Last but not least, Chair Green called for Mrs. Lyndra (née Pratt) Marshall to join him at the podium. Chair Green presented a plaque to Mrs. Marshall recognizing her as Honorary Chairlady Emeritus of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, her service to the State of Maryland, for her wisdom, and her knowledge as well as being the visionary founder of the "Year of Frederick Douglass" Bicentennial Celebration of Frederick Augustus Bailey Douglass.

#### *MCAAHC Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara England Wilson*

Vice Chair Rev. Dr. England Wilson shared in her report that she has had the pleasure of serving as the Chair of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for the MCAAHC. She then took a moment to recognize: Chair Dale Green; Commissioner Lopez Matthews; Dr. Janet Sims-Wood; Ms. Barbara S. Dunn; Mrs. Lyndra (née Pratt) Marshall, Chairwoman Emeritus; and Ms. Donna Cypress that will be comprising the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee. Vice Chair England Wilson said that Kweisi Mfume, will be an honorable chair as well as the committee is looking to secure, Ms. Mary Sue Welcome as an honorary chair. The committee is reaching out to several other individuals to be honorary members on the committee as well. Vice Chair England Wilson said that the committee would like to reach the financial goal of \$500,000. The committee is looking to the public for their financial assistance towards this celebration.

Vice Chair England Wilson said that the anniversary committee is looking to have a church service as their kickoff event at the historic Banneker-Douglass Museum in the month of June. There will be a culminating gala to end this celebration. Literature and a draft of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo will be presented at the next public meeting in August.

### **Report of Commissioners**

#### *Commissioner Marilyn Hatza*

Commissioner Marilyn Hatza shared that she attended a Frederick Douglass Bicentennial affair at the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Meyers Museum in Baltimore, Maryland. She said that they had a great program and admonished the public to visit that museum. Commissioner Hatza also shared that there are a number of commemorative banners displayed of Frederick Douglass installed in Fells Point celebrating the Bicentennial Celebration of Frederick Douglass.

#### *Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene*

Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene began her report sharing that she had a meeting with Director Chanel Compton to establish story telling programming at the Banneker-Douglass Museum between the Real Souls of Maryland and the National Association of Black Story Tellers. She said that she will be doing a Harriet Tubman reenactment on Sunday, July

1<sup>st</sup> for BDM's: Community Day. Commissioner Curtis Greene shared that she will be meeting with Ms. Sabriyah Hassan, Program Director for the Banneker-Douglass Museum for more details concerning this affair.

Commissioner Greene said that she will be also giving reenactment performances at the Hosanna School Museum on June 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup> with Mr. Bob Smith who will be reenacting as Benjamin Banneker for Juneteenth. She also shared that she will be at the Benjamin Banneker Historical Trust and Park Museum with the John's Hopkins University African American Association staff as she performs: "Justice Delayed is Justice Denied."

#### *Commissioner Malcolm Funn*

Commissioner Malcolm Funn gave his report that on May 30, 2018 he participated in a program with the NAACP and the Concerned Black Women where they had conversations on dismantling racism in Southern Maryland. He spoke about Josiah Henson, who was from Port Tobacco Maryland in Charles County. Commissioner Funn said that Josiah was sold to another owner in Montgomery County in Bethesda, Maryland. Josiah was responsible for transporting other enslaved individuals to Kentucky.

Commissioner Funn said that that the story of Uncle Tom's Cabin booklet may have been written about Josiah. He said that the character of Uncle Tom's Cabin seemed to be a little controversial. There was a discussion that took place with the public after a movie was shown about how one relates to the story of Uncle Tom's Cabin and Josiah Henson. Commissioner Funn took a moment to recognize LeRonn Herbert, Special Assistant to the MCAAHC who came to the program.

#### *Commissioner Michael Kent*

Commissioner Michael Kent said that several years ago, under Chairman Emeritus Ted Mack's leadership, the Briscoe Gray Farm was funded by the African American Heritage Preservation Grant. He said that the Briscoe Gray Farm thanks the MCAAHC for working with them where they were able to restore the old tenement houses and barns. Commissioner Kent said that this past May, an open house was given for the public to enjoy the amenities of the farm.

#### *Commissioner Herbert Frisby, Jr.*

Commissioner Herbert Frisby said that he is working with Director Chanel Compton where they collectively are meeting with the two professors who are working on bringing a symposium of the Laurel Cemetery to the Banneker-Douglass Museum in 2019.

#### *Commissioner Steve X. Lee*

Commissioner Steven X. Lee began his report on giving an update on a bill that was being proposed on African American Patriots of the American Revolutionary War. The purpose of the bill is to recognize the black soldiers that fought for our country. Commissioner Lee said Bill HB0597 passed in Maryland's House but Senate Bill SB417 has not. Commissioner Lee said that Senator Barbara A. Robinson is looking to reintroduce the bill next year.

Commissioner Lee also shared that he was the closing speaker for the Benjamin Banneker Historical Trust and Park's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He said that the park is the original homestead of the Banakee family. He said that the whole family was phenomenal along with the tremendous works of Benjamin Banneker. Commissioner Lee said that his speech primarily was given to reinvigorate the public to continue on the works of expanding the park. He said that the Benjamin Banneker Historical Trust and Park only encompasses one third of the land. He is encouraging that the work continue on the other two thirds of the land.

#### *Commissioner Elinor L. Thompson*

Commissioner Elinor L. Thompson reported that she has not been too active due to the recent passing of her husband. She shared that on May 19<sup>th</sup> that she attended a conference called: "Coming to the Table" focusing on race relations at the Unitarian Church of Annapolis. Commissioner Thompson said that the conference was excellent and well attended.

Commissioner Thompson shared that she has just finished documenting information on the Brewer Hill Cemetery going back to 1797. It is the oldest African American cemetery in Annapolis, Maryland. Commissioner Thompson said that there

are more than 7,000 people interred there where there is a lot of restorative work that needs to take place in the cemetery. Commissioner Thompson said that there is a need for capital and non-capital grants.

Commissioner Thompson said that she has documented the Hope-Battle Collection which was held from 1911-1980 which includes Black Jousting from Southern Anne Arundel County.

*Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson*

Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson yielded his time of speaking due to guest who were presenting on programs he attended.

*Commissioner Lynn Bowman*

Commissioner Lynn Bowman gave a report that she has written her fourth book called, "Everyone Counts: The History of Enslavement in Alleghany County, Maryland." She shared that since then, she has gathered great African American history that is not only in Alleghany County but the tristate area such as: Mineral County, West Virginia, and Bedford, Pennsylvania. Commissioner Bowman shared that she felt Theodore Mack, Chairman Emeritus was so wise in that he chose a person like her of Caucasian descent to tell the story because so many of her race are so shocked about their family's involvement in slavery.

Commissioner Bowman said that she and Ms. Aimee Armeanteau, a Frostburg State University Student, created a map of four of the African American sites in Western Maryland. She said that the tour started in the town of Brownsville where Frostburg State University eliminated the town. Frostburg State University has acknowledged that they will mark the university with a large monument and ceremony. From her research, Commissioner Bowman was able to connect a former enslaved family to a home that they lived in in Brownsville to a family that now owns the home six generations later. A play be will produced and reenacted by the students of Frostburg State where the rich African American History of Brownsville will be shared at the Appalachian Festival in Western Maryland.

*Commissioner Lopez Matthews*

Commissioner Lopez Matthews gave a report that he participated in the Maryland History Day contest in Towson, Maryland. He shared that he was very impressed and encouraged by what the youth knew about African American history. He and Commissioner Hatza encouraged the public to be judges for Maryland History Day which is produced by Maryland Humanities. Hundreds of students do research from primary resources and compete on a local and regional level with others across the State of Maryland.

*Commissioner Iris Leigh Barnes, Ph.D.*

Commissioner Iris Leigh Barnes, Ph.D. gave her report that she attended the "Teaching that Inspires" training that was held at the Banneker-Douglass Museum. She found the teaching to be very enlightening and educational. She said that she also participated in the culminating field study that accompanies this program where she, some of the MCAAHC Commissioners as well as classmates toured Dr. Carter G. Woodson's home and Frederick Douglass' Anacostia home.

Commissioner Barnes said that the Lillie Rae Carol Jackson Civil Rights Museum, in partnership with the Lillie Rae Carol Jackson School, is participating together in an oral history project documenting people's visits to the house such as: Dr. Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks. Their hope is to get the Lillie Rae Carol Jack House recognized on the National Register of Historic Places. She admonished the public to come and visit the home.

Commissioner Barnes invited the public to the Hosanna School Museum's Juneteenth Celebration in Darlington, Maryland in Hartford County on Saturday, June 23, 2018 from 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. There will be activities, history shared, lectures given, biographers, and costumed interpreters will be there.

Chair Green congratulated Commissioner Barnes who recently graduated from Morgan State University with her doctorates degree.

*Commissioner Reggie Turner*

Commissioner Reggie Turner gave his report sharing that he is the President of the Doleman Black Heritage Museum in Hagerstown, Maryland in Washington County. He shared that he has been working with Senator Joanne Benson as well

as the local delegation of Washington County. Commissioner Turner said that the Doleman Black Heritage Museum houses a 4,500 piece collection that was started by Ms. Marguerite Doleman in her home in 1974. The non-profit was started in 2008 to move the collection into a publicly accessible place. In its 10 year journey Commissioner Turner was able to work with half of that collection in seeing the move go through. He said that he has been working with Senator Benson and his local delegation behind the scenes to prepare a budget for next year's legislative session to accomplish the museum's capital and operational needs.

Last but not least, Commissioner Turner shared that he is tasked with hosting an MCAAHC's Public meeting in Washington County.

#### *Commissioner Cheryl McLeod*

Commissioner Cheryl McLeod gave a report that she participated in being a panelist for the BDM's "Politics of Activism Program" and was also a judge for Maryland History Day. She also said that she attended the BDM's Teaching That Inspires Sessions, BDM's TBD Jazz Concert, as well as spoke on Mr. Lou Fields WOLB radio program. She shared that she was invited by Governor Larry Hogan to sit on and participate at the Governor's Cabinet Meeting that took place in Howard County where she helped to present an award to the Ridgely Community Center. Commissioner McLeod said that she had went on the Montgomery County Civil Rights tour a couple of times which is similar to a freedom bus tour traveling through the South. Commissioner McLeod said that she spoke with Mr. Lou Fields about producing a similar tour with heritages areas from one end of the State of Maryland to the other end of the State of Maryland due to the rich African American History in the State of Maryland.

#### **Nominations Committee**

Chair Green called for Commissioner Steven X. Lee who introduce a Nomination's Committee for the MCAAHC at the last MCAAHC meeting at Cecil College. Chair Green said that a copy of the guidelines for the Nomination's Committee was added in the commissioner's packet from the previous meeting. He then said that it was then discussed that the MCAAHC Commissioners had time to review the materials. Chair Green turned the floor over to Commissioner Lee to share words concerning the Nomination's Committee. Commissioner Lee said that the Nomination's Committee is designed to give the MCAAHC, as a whole, the opportunity to have input and a stronger voice on the potential MCAAHC candidates that can be considered to be shared to the Governor. He felt that by instituting this process it would give the commission control over the commission's development.

Commissioner Funn asked the question, "If there was a problem with the current nominating process being that the MCAAHC has been in existence for 50 years or should there be another process?" He felt that it seemed as if we were changing the bylaws to make a new committee.

Commissioner Frisby shared that it should be reflected in the MCAAHC's minutes that the Nomination's Committee proposed process should in no way limit the governor's power or affect the governor's power of appointment. He said that he was not sure if the Nominations Committee process is legal.

Commissioner Lopez Matthews shared that he had the same questions as well.

Chair Green gave background information concerning the Nominations Committee and said that it formalizes a practice for the commission on how candidates are chosen for the MCAAHC. In the past, this process was not written to apply for a seat on the MCAAHC. This process does not change the governor's authority to appoint individuals but would give the MCAAHC more of formal practice to invite, interview, as well as meet with individual candidates and bring them before the commission to be appointed to the commission.

Chair Green said that there currently, is no formal practice where things would done externally. He said that there are several seats that are open-that need to be filled and talked about. Chair Green said that there are two MCAAHC Commissioners that are leaving. He said that the MCAAHC should be more in control of making sure that there is a Western Maryland seat. Chair Green said that the commission does not particularly have someone who can share information on a potential candidate from that area. Chair Green said that the MCAAHC has no representation for the Eastern Shore area where there is no member. He shared that the MCAAHC needs to be strategic about all of this. Chair

Green said that the MCAAHC has to take a leadership role on all of this so that there is coverage geographically and that there is a certain level of expectation as well as expertise of the African American History and Culture. The MCAAHC's Nomination's Committee would afford the opportunities to address these things where the commission did not have this kind of representation in the past.

Chair Green said that it is vitally important that there be candidates that have the expertise to support not only the African American History of the State of Maryland but the entities of the MCAAHC such as: the BDM, the \$1 million African American Heritage Preservation Grant, as well as have statewide representation. Chair Green said that under certain governors, this process is done well and for some governors it is not.

Commissioner Frisby asked that the MCAAHC make an amendment to the Nomination's Committee Bylaws by striking the word: "all" in the second paragraph of the Nomination's Committee Bylaws, on the first sentence. Commissioner Frisby shared that the word "are" should be removed from the second sentence on the first page of the bylaws and changed to the word, "maybe". Commissioner Frisby said that by changing these words, brings more clarification to the process of what the MCAAHC is wanting to do with the Nomination's Committee. He said that this also shows that the commission is not trying to tell the governor what to do.

Commissioner Funn shared that Chair Green stated that the MCAAHC has ongoing vacancies. He asked the question, "What would stop the MCAAHC Commissioners from submitting names now versus having a formalized process, amend the bylaws, and then put a committee in place?" Commissioner Funn shared that this is what the MCAAHC is supposed to be doing anyway. He asked the question: "Would the Nomination's Committee take care of this process and why can't the MCAAHC Commissioners make these recommendations of vacancies now?"

Chair Green shared that the practice has been, in the past, that the chair of the MCAAHC would largely be responsible for filling those seats where questions came up in the past about where the commission is in the selection process. He said that in the past there was not a "we" process but the Nominations Committee offers a "we" process to take place in the future. He said that this request came to the floor of the MCAAHC. Chair Green said that this is not a written process but it gives the MCAAHC a certain level of accountability. He said that if the commission is fine with this, they will vote to move forward or vote to deny this process.

Commissioner Funn said that he felt he would not be a part of the MCAAHC if this process was installed. Chair Green and several commissioners said that this was not true. Commissioner Steven X. Lee said to Commissioner Funn that this process was to make things are more relevant in the concern Commissioner Funn had by having the Nominations Committee established. He said that this would give the community, of which the MCAAHC Commissioners do not get to here from often, the opportunity to share potential qualified candidates.

Commissioner Funn shared that, "Being that the MCAAHC is made up of MCAAHC Commissioners, why can't the MCAAHC Commissioners share their potential candidates and submit their name to their counties respective Senators?" Commissioner Lee said that, "Right now the MCAAHC does not nominate its commissioners that are brought aboard to the commission." He shared that, "The commission can submit names but there is no formal process."

Commissioner Lee said that, "The process, being presented at the MCAAHC meeting, is most normal for most organizations who are looking at people for positions." He said that, "By having this process, the commission, as a whole, has more ability to nominate people for the commission." Commissioner Lee said that, "All of us know people, from our general communities, that the chair alone may not know of." He said that, "Because the commission has been doing something for 50 years does not mean that things don't need to be tweaked." Commissioner Lee said that, "We should tweak things based on our trials that we've learned from the past." Commissioner Lee said that, "It is important that our people try to take some control over our own destiny-leadership to nominate equally for our own cultural development." Commissioner Lee felt that the MCAAHC was deferring to others to make decisions for the commission.

Commissioner Frisby shared that he was trying to find a middle ground for the Nominations Committee and suggested that the MCAAHC should nominate persons considered for appointment to the governor to the MCAAHC. He said that he hears what the MCAAHC Commissioners are saying but Commissioner Frisby pointed out that there is a legal construct in



terms of gubernatorial appointments. Commissioner Frisby felt that it would be of importance for the MCAAHC to share upfront what the purpose of the Nominations Committee is all about.

Commissioner Lee asked Commissioner Frisby what the language he was sharing that should be used. Commissioner Frisby said that things can be said that, "The MCAAHC is to consult with and recommend to the governor persons of merit who should be considered for nominations to the commission." Commissioner Lee shared that he does not have a problem with this language at all. Commissioner Lee asked Commissioner Funn if this particular language is o.k. Commissioner Funn said that he has some difficulty with this because the MCAAHC has a statute of appointment authority where it looks as if it is giving the impression that the MCAAHC is circumventing something. He said that he likes what Commissioner Frisby is saying for the statement that Commissioner Frisby is sharing sounds as if the MCAAHC is working as a cooperative with State government and give names of candidates. Commissioner Lee made a motion to move forward with the language of what Commissioner Frisby has proposed.

Commissioner Elinor Thompson shared that she has a problem with the Nomination's Committee process that is being proposed. She shared that she would like to see that there be given more time to discuss this matter by having this information talked about at the MCAAHC's Retreat. Commissioner Lee said that the information was presented and shared at the last MCAAHC meeting where the MCAAHC Bylaws were followed in giving 30 days consideration and then taking a vote on the materials. Commissioner Funn asked the question if the subsequent information shared would make any concessions for an additional 30 days for changes proposed?

Commissioner Frisby shared that he was not sure if amendments to the Nomination's Committee Bylaws would be accepted for an extension period of 30 days. Chair Dale Green shared that one: the Nomination's Committee document will not be a retreat item and that two: the MCAAHC Commissioners had 30 days to review the document where the amendments shared are friendly enough that the changes can be made and a vote be able to take place. He said that there has been sufficient time given to the reviewing of the Nomination's Committee document.

Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene shared that her fear is that if the Nomination's Committee document had been established she had the concern, like Commissioner Malcolm Funn, that she would not be an MCAAHC Commissioner. She felt that this document would benefit those who were on the MCAAHC Commission in recommending friends of friends or likeminded people. Commissioner Greene said that at some point, she would have to learn to trust others. Commissioner Steven X. Lee said that this document was established so that there would be less of a chance that something like this would happen. He also shared that the fewer the people you have coming as outside sources stops the varied concerned that Commissioner Greene had.

Commissioner Reggie Turner shared that he felt that the Nomination's Committee document does not represent Western Maryland's interest. He shared that Western Maryland is underrepresented and now is going to lose a commissioner. He felt that having an insular approach, with this document having "no teeth", in how the MCAAHC is going to represent all counties in moving this document forward with several new commissioners, may do a disservice. Commissioner Steven X. Lee said that he thinks that there is a misunderstanding concerning the committee and the document. He felt that things are very insular now and that this committee and document makes things less insular. Commissioner Lee said that part of his genesis of thinking about the development of this committee and devising this document was significantly due to keeping Western Maryland in mind. He shared that rather than having a small nucleus group making decisions, it would be better to have the whole commission body in on the process.

Commissioner Lopez Matthews said that he thinks that he has an understanding of where the concern was. He shared that in looking at the Nomination's Committee bylaws, it shares that there will be six MCAAHC Commissioners that will be on this committee. Commissioner Matthews assumed that the chair of the MCAAHC would be one person but who would be the other individuals chosen? Commissioner Steven X. Lee said that the information must have been misconstrued. He shared that the whole MCAAHC will have the right, the responsibility, and the ability to pick individuals as candidates for MCAAHC Commissioners from each commissioner's respective areas. He feels that the committee should set criteria.

Chair Green moved that the MCAAHC moved with a motion to move forward with accepting the document with the friendly amendments. Commissioner Funn asked if the MCAAHC could hear the friendly amendments to what is being

voted on. Chair Dale Green asked Commissioner Frisby to share the suggested amendments he presented. Chair Green read that the amendments which was to: first, strike the word “all” from the nominations; second, strike the word “are” and replace it with “maybe” and third, add the preamble that, Commissioner Frisby suggested, “The purpose of this committee shall be to consult with and recommend to the governor the appointment of persons to the commission.” The word “merit” was removed from the preamble because Commissioner Funn said asked the question of how does one define merit in the selection process of a person being selected as a candidate for the MCAAHC. Commissioner Frisby said that he initially used the word merit to help define some type of criteria for this proposed process. Chair Green said that criteria will be forthcoming when the committee is approved.

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE VOTING**

Chair Green asked that LeRonn Herbert, Special Assistant for the MCAAHC, come forth and take the individual vote of each MCAAHC Commissioner in regards to the Nominations Committee being established with its preamble.



#	Commissioner Name & Title	Yes-Approve	No-Do Not Approve
1	Commissioner Iris Leigh Barnes	x	
2	Commissioner Lynn Bowman	x	
3	Commissioner Maya Davis-absent		
4	Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara England Wilson	x	
5	Commissioner H. Russell Frisby, Jr.	x	
6	Commissioner Malcolm Funn	x	
7	Chair Dale Glenwood Green	x	
8	Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene	x	
9	Commissioner Marilyn Hatza	x	
10	Commissioner Edwin T. Johnson	x	
11	Commissioner Michael Kent	x	
12	Commissioner Melvin Kelly	x	
13	Commissioner Steven X. Lee	x	
14	Commissioner Lopez Matthews, PhD	x	

15	Commissioner Cheryl McLeod	x	
16	Commissioner Elinor L. Thompson	x	
17	Commissioner Reggie Tuner		x

**Executive Director Performance Evaluation Document**

Chair Dale Green said that each MCAAHC Commissioner has received a five page Performance Evaluation Document that has been reviewed with Director Compton as an instrument where the MCAAHC Commissioners can edit, make recommendations or corrections to it. He said that currently there isn't any instrument for evaluating an Executive Director. He said that the commission will not be voting on this matter but weighing in on suggestions of this matter. Chair Green said that the MCAAHC will be introducing it and discussing it at the next MCAAHC meeting in August.

*Director Michael Groppie and Baltimore County Executive Christopher Garnett-United States Colored Troops Project*

Mr. Michael Groppie, Director of the Baltimore Cemetery Complex and Baltimore County Christopher Garnett came to the MCAAHC meeting to make a presentation on a project, proposal, summary to partner with the community, academic associations to research the history of the United States Colored Troops Service Members (USCT) that were buried at the Loudon Park National Cemetery. The purpose of this project is to learn more about their stories, during and after service, their place in Baltimore History, and their place in Civil War-U.S. History. Mr. Groppie said that as a follow up, they would like to publicize historical significance of the USCT service members with: an interpretive sign, curriculum inserts for local schools-that may include a cemetery visit option, a possible integration of this cemetery into the National Park Service as well as have a great goal of taking USCT lodge and turn it into a museum housing their findings and information of the local information

Mr. Groppie said that the Loudon Park Cemetery is one of the 14 original cemeteries that was founded by 17<sup>th</sup> Cemetery Act of July 17, 1862 This was signed by President Lincoln in response to public demand in public care for the service members that fought during the Civil War.

In looking at what Director Groppie and Baltimore County Executive Christopher Garnett were embarking on, Commissioner Elinor Thompson donated her book entitled, "Nelson's Rest Documenting the History and Heritage of Asbury Broadneck Annapolis Church Historic Communities and Historic Burial Grounds." She shared that she has documented the church's history, the Civil War Heroes, a quilt was produced as well as tracing their history back to 1832.

*Reverend Earnest Scales and Ms. Jean Charleston, Executive Director of Health Freedom A Path to Wellness*

Reverend Scales came to the MCAAHC meeting along with Ms. Jean Charleston to make a presentation on "Health Freedom a Path to Wellness" a grass roots program that is designed to keep the community healthy. This program has partnered with Morgan State University where they are collectively trying to reach a larger segment of the community sharing their various resources about the efficiencies of health and the history African Americans.

Ms. Jean Charleston shared that she is the Executive Director for Health Freedom Services, a company that she started as a 501 (c) 3 15 years ago. She also said that she is a licensed nurse for John's Hopkins University where teaches classes on health issues such as: high blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol.

Ms. Charleston shared that in teaching at one of her classes, an African American lady shared that she had problems with all three issues and said that she found it to be extremely hard to manage these diseases. This lady's concerns haunted Ms. Charleston where she found herself tossing and turning and not sleeping. Ms. Charleston felt that she received her answer from God where she felt he led her to look at the way African American Ancestors walked several miles to help keep them in good health and how the African American Community helped each other from slavery until now.

Ms. Charleston shared that a "Circle of Friends" program was started at churches, with families, at Jewish Synagogues to address the issues of health. She found that through this program, many people, with their support of their Circle of Friends Network, were able to get off of their diabetes medicine and lose weight. The program has been offered in 11 counties throughout the State of Maryland.

On June 9, 2018 there will be that will take place at Sandy Springs at the Legacy Trail developed by enslaved individuals in Montgomery County and on June 16, 2018 there will be a Circle of Friends 5K walk where all of the Circle of Friend's group come together to walk for health, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Morgan State University's history will be shared, and a walking packet will be given.

*Ms. Janice Hagee and the Preservation of the Legacy of President Barack Obama*

Ms. Hagee came to the MCAAHC public meeting to share that she would like activate the community in celebrating the many accomplishments of President Barack Obama and his administration. She felt that it was a critical time to recognize the work of President Obama where, she felt that many of his initiatives are under attack with the current administration. She is asking that the public remember the work and accomplishments of President Barack Obama by finding ways in keeping our various communities from experiencing the roll back of the work he has done.

Ms. Hagee share a list of her organizations initiatives which some are: activate the public through political action and education, have programs that teach the youth about the life and legacy of President Barack Obama, as well as sustain the initiatives to sustain the African Diaspora initiated by President Barack Obama. To do this, an initiative was done to celebrate President Obama's birthday with a program on August 4<sup>th</sup> at Obama Elementary School in Prince George's County as well as a community service project called "The Shoe Box Gift" where those who come to this service day will bring shoe boxes with items that will be distributed to those that are homeless or poor in the Prince George's County and Baltimore areas.

**New Business**

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,

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LeRonn Herbert, Special Assistant

