



Historic Resources Board

FY2020 ANNUAL REPORT
Adopted August 4, 2020

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Introduction

The Manassas Historical Committee was established by a resolution adopted by the Manassas City Council on August 27, 1973, and reestablished with an expanded mission by Council Resolution R-90-48 on June 11, 1990. The Committee was reconstituted as the Manassas Historic Resources Board (“HRB” or “Board”) by Resolution R-99-154, adopted by the City Council on June 14, 1999. It is an advisory body pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-1411 and subject to City of Manassas Code § 2-301 and City Council Policies related to advisory bodies.

Responsibilities

The purposes of the Board are as follows:

1. To advise the City Council as appropriate on matters of historical interest to the City. These include, but are not limited to, historic preservation, educational and cultural programs, and tourism promotion.
2. To act as an advisory board to The Manassas Museum System. In this capacity, the Board shall formulate policy recommendations for approval by the City Council. These include, but are not limited to, strategic planning, admission and other policies, business planning, programming, and the accession/de-accession of artifacts.
3. To work in cooperation with such community organizations as the City of Manassas Architectural Review Board, Historic Manassas, Inc., Manassas Business Council, Manassas Museum Associates, Old Town Business Association, and other groups for the general benefit of the citizens of Manassas.
4. To foster wider awareness of the City’s historic legacy and promote responsible stewardship of historic resources both public and private.
5. To consider and comment on other matters of general community interest as requested by the City Council and, or other organizations or groups as listed above.

Activities

In FY20 the HRB supported the Museum System's exhibits and programs as well as undertook several special projects of their own. These projects including fundraising for the Jennie Dean Memorial, proposing a commemorative automobile license plate for the City of Manassas, and most importantly, updating the System's strategic plan.

As of June 30, 2020, the Manassas Museum System had raised \$133,000 of the \$175,000 needed to match the City Council's appropriation of \$175,000 for the Jennie Dean Memorial and the statue had been commissioned and site work begun. That project is on schedule for fall of FY21. A design for a commemorative license plate was put out to the public for input who overwhelmingly chose the seal over the logo as the primary design element of the plate. The license plate is planned for final Council approval and submission to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles in FY21.

In preparing the System's strategic plan, the HRB gathered input from a variety of places including the City's biannual Citizen Survey and Community Conversations. In addition, the Museum Staff was successful in obtaining a grant from the American Association of Museums for a peer review assessment of the System's community engagement efforts. That report contained a number of suggestions that the HRB considered as part of the planning effort. The HRB also worked with the City staff to align the System's strategic plan with the City's Comprehensive Plan update which identified the acquisition of Annaburg Manor by the City as an additional Manassas Museum System historic site. Approval of the plan and submission to the City Council was originally planned for the end of FY20 however the pandemic emergency has pushed that to the fall of FY21.

Collections

A primary responsibility of the HRB is to approve the donation or deaccession of gifts and acquisitions for the Museum's permanent collection. The HRB annually appoints a Collections Committee that also includes members of the community. The Committee meets annually or biannually with the Museum Curator to consider potential gifts or acquisitions. In FY20 the Committee considered potential gifts from six donors for a total of twelve objects or lots. Eleven objects were accepted (8 for collection/3 for the files) and one object was rejected. Of the items donated there was a Manassas Industrial School Diploma, items from local collectors Chip and Ann Paciulli, which included Civil War era items, a Liberia school document, and 255 documents dealing with local business, land transactions, railroad history and legal

matters. The committee also voted to reject a small paperback book that arrived through the mail – unsolicited – with no donor information included.

A Look Ahead

During the first quarter of FY21 the HRB will focus on completing the Manassas Museum System Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and submit that to the City Council by the end of the calendar year. Work will then begin on implementation of the plan which includes working with City staff on new programs and exhibits, planning for the 2023 Sesquicentennial of the founding of Manassas and renovating the Manassas Museum building in time for that event. In 2023, the Manassas Museum will celebrate fifty (50) years which is an important anniversary for the community to celebrate. The Museum Curator has also suggested that the HRB consider updating the community membership of the Collections Committee and the HRB will take up that issue once the Strategic Plan is completed.

As always, the Board extends its appreciation to the Council for its continued support of the Manassas Museum System and looks forward to a year in FY21.

Membership

<u>Member</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
Dave Button	June 30, 2021
Lyshawn Dean	June 30, 2021
Rob Fisher	June 30, 2024
Connie Gilman	June 30, 2023
Robert Keller	June 30, 2024
Mark Olsen	June 30, 2023
Jill Pascale	June 30, 2023
Ralph Smith	November 2019 (elected to City Council)
Warwick Steer	June 30, 2023
Don Wilson	June 30, 2023

Attendance Report

Board Members	Meetings	Present	Absent
Dave Button	5	5	0
Lyshawn Dean	5	4	1
Rob Fisher	5	3	2
Connie Gilman	5	3	2
Robert Keller	5	4	1
Mark Olsen	5	5	0
Jill Pascale	5	4	1
Ralph Smith*	3	2	1
Warwick Steer**	1	1	0
Don Wilson	5	4	1

*Ralph Smith elected to City Council November 2019.

**Warwick Steer appointed to HRB December 2019.

Note: The HRB did not meet in April, May and June of 2020 due to the pandemic emergency. Meetings resumed in July, 2020.

Sincerely,

Mark Olsen, Chair

Date