

Florida Museum of Black History Task Force
Monday, February 19, 2024 – 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough St., Tallahassee, FL 32399
And via GoToMeeting Webinar, ID: 733-929-635

Meeting Minutes

Task Force Members Present In-Person: N/A

Task Force Members Present Via Webinar: Howard Holley; Rep. Berny Jacques, Vice-Chair; Dr. Altony Lee; Dr. Nashid Madyun; Rep. Kiyon Michael; Regina Gayle Phillips; Sen. Bobby Powell; Sen. Geraldine Thompson, Chair

Task Force Members Not Present: Brian Butler (excused)

Department of State (DOS) Staff Members Present: Alissa Lotane, Director, Historical Resources; John Grandage, Assistant Director, Historical Resources; Alexys Johnson, Executive Assistant, Division of Historical Resources; Jeremy Heiker, Webinar Facilitator; Dr. Angela Tomlinson, Assistant Director, Historical Resources

Members of the Public Present In-Person: N/A

Members of the Public Present Via Webinar: Members of the public who attended via webinar and spoke during the meeting are noted below, where appropriate.

Item I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Rep. Berny Jacques called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m. Roll call confirmed quorum.

Item II. Introduction of Task Force Members, Staff, & Guests

Task Force members introduced themselves. Alissa Lotane introduced herself and Division staff present in person.

Item III. Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Nashid Madyun moved to adopt the agenda. Howard Holley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item IV. Adoption of Minutes from the January 12, 2024, Meeting

Howard Holley moved to adopt the minutes from the January 12, 2024, meeting. Regina Gayle Phillips seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item V. Update on Public Survey

Alissa Lotane provided a brief update on the public survey and shared that as of Friday, February 9, 2024, there were a total of 3,039 responses received. Alissa Lotane stated that DOS will continue to promote the survey, which is set to close on February 29, 2024.

Item VI. Presentation for Proposed Museum Location

Alissa Lotane stated that today's meeting is the final opportunity for presentations from prospective locations. On Thursday, February 8, 2024, the Division emailed the approved criteria to the thirteen (13) prospective locations who have presented thus far. Responses from prospective locations are due on Friday, March 15, 2024. Alissa Lotane discussed submission details and how scoring will take place at the April 2024 Task Force meeting. Alissa Lotane mentioned that Andrew Chin, Dean of the School of Architecture and Engineering

Technology at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), will speak later in the meeting on what FAMU plans to provide, in terms of site and building design, for Task Force consideration.

The Task Force discussed other considerations regarding receiving and evaluating responses from prospective locations. The Task Force discussed adding a June meeting and the need for additional presentations from finalists, as determined by members' evaluation of responses from prospective locations. Howard Holley motioned to hear presentations from the three (3) finalists at the May 2024 meeting. Regina Gayle Phillips seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Representatives from West Palm Beach/Palm Beach County discussed their community as a potential location for the proposed museum. Representatives who spoke on behalf of West Palm Beach/Palm Beach County included: Mack Bernard, Palm Beach County Commission Chair, District Seven (7); Verdenia Baker, County Administrator; Jennifer Sullivan, Senior Vice President of the Culture Council of Palm Beach County; Keith James, Palm Beach Mayor; and Edwin Furguson, School Board Member.

Item VII. Discussion of Location Criteria Process

Alissa Lotane reviewed the list of prospective locations who have made presentations to the Task Force thus far:

- 1) Daytona Beach
- 2) Havana
- 3) Jackson County
- 4) Nassau County/Amelia Island
- 5) Opa-locka
- 6) Orange County/Eatonville
- 7) West Palm Beach/Palm Beach County
- 8) Panama City Beach
- 9) Quincy
- 10) Sarasota
- 11) Seminole County
- 12) St. Johns County/St. Augustine
- 13) St. Petersburg

Item VIII. Break (optional)

Sen. Geraldine Thompson called for a short break at 2:09 p.m. The meeting resumed at 2:25 p.m.

Item IX. Remarks by Dr. Tameka Bradley Hobbs

Sen. Geraldine Thompson recognized Dr. Tameka Bradley Hobbs to present on her experience and work in the history and museum fields. Dr. Hobbs discussed her work and experience in public history, education, and academia. Dr. Hobbs shared her observations regarding planning for the future museum and answered questions from the Task Force, particularly regarding the need for a feasibility study and the timeline for a project of this scope.

Item X. Remarks by Dr. Yanela G. McLeod

Sen. Geraldine Thompson recognized Dr. Yanela G. McLeod to present on her work in the history and museum fields. Dr. McLeod discussed her work and experience in public history, education, and academia. Dr. McLeod

shared her observations regarding planning for the future museum, particularly the need to focus on certain themes in order for the future museum to reach its full potential and to best serve the community.

Item XI. Break (optional)

Sen. Geraldine Thompson called for a short break at 3:40 p.m. The meeting resumed at 3:45 p.m.

Item XII. Update on Museum Design

Sen. Geraldine Thompson recognized Andrew Chin, Dean of the School of Architecture and Engineering Technology at FAMU, to provide an overview of plans for the museum design. Before Andrew Chin spoke, Alissa Lotane reviewed DOS efforts to solicit architectural services for a museum design, and how FAMU would be partnering with DOS to provide these services. Andrew Chin discussed his experience, role at FAMU, and engagement with similar projects. Andrew Chin provided an overview of the type of services FAMU can provide towards developing preliminary work on the proposed future museum, including site evaluation, space planning, and building use and massing diagrams. Andrew Chin answered questions from the Task Force. On project turnaround time, he explained that, once finalist sites have been identified, the turnaround time for design deliverables would be about one (1) month. Andrew Chin further explained considerations for site topography and how that would determine access points and influence the project budget.

Item XIII. Future Meeting Dates and Agendas

Alissa Lotane discussed future meeting dates and agenda items. Key points included adjustments to the schedule, including presentations by Lisa Barton, Director of the Museum of Florida History and Chief of Historical Museums, who will present on museum best practices, and Visit Florida, who will present on the marketing plan. Other key points include scoring responses received from prospective locations at the April meeting and hearing presentations, as previously discussed in Item VI. Presentation for Proposed Museum Location, at the May meeting. Staff will send out a poll to Task Force members to determine the dates for the March and April meetings, followed thereafter by a poll to determine the dates for the May and June meetings.

Item XIV. Task Force Open Discussion, Questions, & Announcements

Sen. Geraldine Thompson asked the Task Force to respond promptly to the poll so future meetings can be scheduled as soon as possible. Sen. Geraldine Thompson discussed legislation introduced by Rep. Lawrence McClure and Sen. Danny Burgess that directs DOS to partner with the Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network. Dr. Altony Lee discussed deadlines for achieving the work of the Task Force and offered to assist staff with the financial sustainability transition plan, which is mentioned in the Task Force's legislation. Howard Holley offered to assist by working with Visit Florida on the marketing plan, which is also mentioned in the Task Force's legislation. Other Task Force members discussed concerns regarding the Task Force's timeline for completing the report and strategies for completing the work.

Item XV. Public Comment

Mr. William Thomas, Jr., who represents the Bing Rooming House Museum, in Plant City, Florida, voiced support for the proposed museum.

Item XVI. Adjourn

Sen. Geraldine Thompson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Altony Lee moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Geraldine F. Thompson Presiding Officer

Glissa Loran State Historic Preservation Officer and Director, Division of Historical Resources

Approved: 3/29/24