Florida Museum of Black History Task Force
Tuesday, May 21, 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: 479-791-619

Meeting Minutes

Task Force Members Present In-Person: Howard Holley; Dr. Altony Lee; Regina Gayle Phillips; Sen. Geraldine Thompson, Chair
Task Force Members Present Via Webinar: Brian Butler; Rep. Berny Jacques, Vice-Chair; Dr. Nashid Madyun; Rep. Kiyan Michael; Sen. Bobby Powell
Department of State (DOS) Staff Members Present: Alissa Lotane, Director, Historical Resources; John Grandage, Assistant Director, Historical Resources; Jeremy Heiker, Webinar Facilitator; Dr. Angela Tomlinson, Assistant Director, Historical Resources; Jon Morris, Deputy General Counsel, Florida Department of State
Members of the Public Present In-Person: Members of the public who attended in-person and spoke during the meeting are noted where appropriate.
Members of the Public Present Via Webinar: Members of the public who attended via webinar and spoke during the meeting are noted where appropriate.

Item I. Call to Order and Roll Call
Sen. Geraldine Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:05 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 (occurred later in the meeting).

Item III. Adoption of Agenda
After discussion regarding Item VII. Optional Vote on Museum Location, Brian Bulter moved to adopt the agenda. Sen. Bobby Powell seconded. The motion passed.

Item IV. Adoption of Minutes from the April 19, 2024, Meeting
After discussion regarding a correction on Page 3, Item XII, of the April 19, 2024, meeting minutes (changing "scores" to "ranking"), Sen. Bobby Powell moved to adopt the minutes from the April 19, 2024, meeting, as corrected. Dr. Nashid Madyun seconded. The motion passed.

Item V. Presentation of Architectural Study
Andrew Chin, Dean & Associate Professor, Florida A&M University College of Architecture & Engineering Technology, presented findings from the architectural study of the top three locations (in alphabetical order): Eatonville/Orange County, Opa-locka, and St. Augustine/St. Johns County. Using the proposals submitted by the top three locations, Dean Chin provided information based on analysis of Location Criteria 2, "Appropriateness of Proposed Location," and Location Criteria 5, "Transportation Infrastructure." His focus included information on lot size, points of interest, pedestrian access, parking, transportation, land use, and the building program. Dean Chin mentioned colleagues from the National Association of Minority Architects

who also reviewed the location proposals and contributed information used in his report. Dean Chin responded to Task Force questions regarding his presentation.

Item VI. Discussion of Design Materials and Next Steps

Alissa Lotane discussed next steps in the design process. Staff provided copies of Dean Chin's presentation to the Task Force members.

Item VII. Optional Vote on Museum Location

Sen. Geraldine Thompson asked Task Force members, by a show of hands, to indicate if they were prepared to take a vote regarding the final recommendation on museum location. No members indicated that they were ready to vote. Discussion ensued regarding the selection process implemented by the Task Force in its previous meetings.

Mr. Howard Holley moved "that the Task Force take the rankings [from the April 19, 2024, meeting] as the vote for the site, in which case St. Augustine/St. Johns County would be the site based on the rankings that occurred." Regina Gayle Philips seconded the motion. Dr. Nashid Madyun offered an amendment to the motion, for Task Force members to vote by indicating their first and second choice for museum location. Dr. Altony Lee seconded. Sen. Geraldine Thompson called for a vote on the amendment. Brian Bulter and Dr. Nashid Madyun voted in favor, all other members voted against. The amendment to Howard Holley's motion failed.

Before hearing public comment on Howard Holley's original motion, Sen. Geraldine Thompson called for a short break at 2:55 p.m. The meeting resumed at 3:05 p.m.

The Task Force heard public comment on the motion prior to holding the vote:

- Willie Logan spoke in favor of Opa-locka, specifically on how the development model used by the Ten North Group promotes economic sustainability. He also commented on the benefits of South Florida's infrastructure network.
- Carolyn Fennell spoke in favor of Eatonville/Orange County, focusing on the historical significance of Eatonville, including the proposed Hungerford site, as well as the regional economy of Central Florida and potential sources of funding.
- Rep. Bruce Antone spoke in favor of Eatonville/Orange County, focusing on the benefits of Eatonville in relation to the Task Force's criteria location selection and the reports he produced and submitted to the Task Force in support of locating the museum in Eatonville.
- Dr. Candace Findley spoke in favor of Eatonville/Orange County, focusing on environmental concerns of the St. Augustine site and the reasons why she believes Eatonville presents a more sustainable option for the future museum.
- Angela Johnson spoke in favor of Eatonville/Orange County, focusing on community support for the museum. She spoke about the appropriateness of the Hungerford site, including proximity to educational resources, in addition to the benefits of tourism and infrastructure in Central Florida.
- LaPhyena Jordan spoke in favor of Eatonville/Orange County, including her family's long-time residence in Eatonville and local community support for the museum.
- Joy Andrews spoke in favor of St. Augustine/St. Johns County, focusing on the appropriateness of St. Augustine/St. Johns County in the context of the criteria established by the Task Force. She stated that

St. Augustine/St. Johns County would pay for a feasibility study if it was selected as the site for the future museum.
- Sarah Arnold spoke in favor of St. Augustine/St. Johns County, focusing on community support, by listing local and regional organizations and individuals that have committed support to establishing the museum in St. Augustine/St. Johns County. She reiterated that St. Augustine/St. Johns County would pay for a feasibility study if it was selected as the site for the future museum.
- The webinar facilitator read two written comments into the record, that were received via the webinar chat function, both in favor of St. Augustine/St. Johns County.
- Angie Gardener spoke in favor of Eatonville/Orange County, focusing on the educational role of museums. She also spoke about the historical significance and sustainability of Eatonville.
- Sara Elbadri read a letter of support from U.S. Congressman Maxwell Frost in favor of Eatonville/Orange County. She also shared information about funding secured by Congressman Frost for improvements in Eatonville and his support for future projects in the area.
- Vickie Pepper spoke in favor of St. Augustine/St. Johns County, commented on the Task Force's process, and shared her thoughts on why St. Augustine/St. Johns County is the best location for the future museum.
- Tera Meeks spoke in favor of St. Augustine/St. Johns County, complimented the work of the Task Force, and provided information on tourism in the St. Augustine/St. Johns County region.
- Sarah Jenness spoke in favor of St. Augustine/St. Johns, focusing on its historical significance.

Sen. Gerladine Thompson called for Alissa Lotane to do a roll call vote on the original motion. Howard Holley, Rep. Berny Jacques, Dr. Altony Lee, Rep. Kiyan Michael, and Regina Gayle Philips voted in favor. Brian Bulter, Dr. Nashid Madyun, Sen. Bobby Powell, and Sen. Geraldine Thompson voted against. The motion to recommend St. Augustine/St. Johns County as the site passed 5 to 4.

Item VIII. Break

See above, break occurred prior to vote in Item VII.

Item IX. Discussion of Feasibility Study for Museum Location(s)

Alissa Lotane introduced the item. Discussion ensued.

Item X. Optional Vote to Recommend Feasibility Study

Dr. Altony Lee moved to recommend a feasibility study on the top three locations as ranked at the April 19, 2024, meeting. Regina Gayle Philips seconded. Discussion ensued. Sen. Geraldine Thompson called for a vote. The motion passed.

Item XI. Presentation of Draft Recommendations

John Grandage read the draft recommendations that were emailed to the Task Force prior to the meeting.

The Task Force heard additional public comment prior to holding a vote:
- Rep. Bruce Antone spoke in favor of Eatonville/Orange County
- Dr. Candace Findley spoke in favor of Eatonville/Orange County
- Angela Johnson spoke in favor of Eatonville/Orange County
- Thomas Jackson spoke in favor of St. Augustine/St. Johns County

Item XII. Discussion of Draft Recommendations

Task Force members discussed the recommendations. John Grandage recorded proposed amendments to the draft recommendations from the Task Force.

- Under Recommendation 1, "Plans for the location, design, and construction of the museum."
    - In subsection a. Location, change the order of items i and ii.
    - In subsection a. Location, state that the feasibility study (now item i) would consider the top three locations as ranked at the April 19, 2024, meeting. On the same, state that funds for the feasibility study would be appropriated by the legislature to the Department of State, who would manage the project.
    - In subsection b. Design & Construction, state that the "museum shall be a large facility up to 100,000 square feet…"
- Under Recommendation 2, "Recommendations for the operation and administration of the museum."
    - In subsection a. Operation, item ii, add the following: National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis; Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts + Culture, Charlotte; Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit
- Under Recommendation 4, "A transition plan for the museum to become financially self-sufficient."
    - Subsection a. shall read "…the museum shall be fully funded by the state via legislative appropriation."

Item XIII. Vote(s) to Accept or Amend Draft Recommendations

Dr. Nashid Madyun moved to accept the draft recommendations as amended. Sen. Bobby Powell seconded. Sen. Geraldine Thompson called for a preliminary vote to accept the draft recommendations. The motion passed. Staff will provide an updated copy of the recommendations and other materials for Task Force consideration prior to the next meeting.

Item XIV. Next Steps for Task Force

Alissa Lotane discussed next steps for the upcoming meetings.

Item XV. Task Force Open Discussion, Questions, and Announcements

None offered.

Item XV. Public Comment

Rep. Bruce Antone spoke in favor of Eatonville/Orange County.

Item XVIII. Adjourn

Dr. Altony Lee moved to adjourn. Sen. Geraldine Thompson adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

These May 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes include changes to the draft minutes approved by unanimous vote by the Task Force at the June 28, 2024, meeting.

_____ Presiding Officer

_____ State Historic Preservation Officer and Director, Division of Historical Resources

Approved: _____