



Oct 8, 2016

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors of Diversity and Equality Fairs of Virginia

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:12PM on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in the Balch Library in Leesburg, VA. Present were Larry Roeder, Douglas Miller and Anthony Arciero. A quorum was achieved and the agenda was approved.

2. A short history of Diversity Fairs and an update on its current status were presented and discussed. We are awaiting the final approval from the state of Virginia of the tax-exempt status.

a. Diversity Fairs has three lines of effort: Fairs and meetings, At-risk schools, and the Edwin Washington Project.

b. We discussed all lines of effort and the group agreed that Diversity Fairs will continue to pursue each.

3. Next was a presentation on the history of the Edwin Washington Project and the important milestones achieved thus far.

a. Earlier this year, Delegate John Bell achieved a joint resolution of the Virginia House of Delegates commending the work of preserving the educational records of Loudoun County Public Schools. Shortly thereafter, the Loudoun Now newspaper ran a front-page article on the project. Then, just last week, a local television station did a segment on the project.

b. We have built the annotated catalog, the database is being developed, the schools list has been compiled, the initial teachers list is compiled, and all the bound books and petitions have been scanned. Much more work remains, but significant progress has been made.

c. The goals for 2017 include finishing the catalog, drafting the book (Dirt don't burn), and producing an analysis of the petitions.

d. An additional aspect of the Edwin Washington Project is the potential to export our process to other school systems. We have an offer to pilot test that concept in Gillespie County, Texas. Larry is discussing this possibility with the Friends of Gillespie County Schools. Also, The Loudoun NAACP has suggested that our model might be able to be exported to other counties in Virginia, and potentially, to other states throughout the South.

4. This discussion was followed by a review of the budget. We y briefly covered the various categories of potential expenses which include preservation supplies, electronic media and software, research costs, potential reimbursement for volunteers' mileage, and costs associated with producing the various reports.

5. We then moved into a discussion of fundraising. We discussed the potential for a fundraising event and the possibility of raising money through direct requests. The group discussed various strategies and agreed on a fund raising plan that included connecting with relatively small, interested groups and asking for donations. Our work will be valuable to at least two constituencies—those conducting genealogy research, and academics conducting historical research. We should consider those two as potential broad categories of funding sources. Since our total funding need is relatively small, we could conceivably develop the full resources needed through a number of small donations. All present agreed that additional planning would be required and that a professional flyer would need to be developed as a starting point. We also agreed to develop a fund raising plan.

6. The positions of Board President and Vice President were voted on and the incumbents were nominated and elected unanimously. Larry Roeder is the President and Randy Ihara is the Vice President. The treasurer position will be voted on in the future.

7. The attendees participated in a commemorative photo and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Recorded by:

Anthony Arciero

Approved by:

Larry W. Roeder  
Board President