



**2019 Annual Meeting**

**2/16/2018**

**Fostering A Diversified Society**



**Tab C: Minutes and Decisions Made**

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## Attendees and Approval of Agenda

The meeting was declared open by Larry Roeder at the Kirin Café, 43053 Pemberton Square, South Riding, Va. A quorum of voting members was found to be present, and the agenda was approved without edit. The meeting ran from 3pm to just past 5pm.

### Materials used were sent by email mostly and handed out at the meeting.:

- Tab A: The President's Report
- Tab B: The Decision Packet
- The Treasurer's Report.
- First Findings of multispectral research done by the Library of Congress.
- Bylaws. The final version is attached to the minutes as Tab D.

### Attending were:

1. **Anthony Arciero**, PhD Candidate in Education and Deputy Head of Edwin Washington Project
2. **Myron Curtis**, non-voting member. Instructor at Broad Run High School and head of team of 27 student volunteers working on Dirt Don't Burn, 2019.
3. **Julie Goforth**, non-voting member until elected to the Board. Deputy Head of Edwin Washington Project and Head of Digital Preservation for Diversity Fairs.
4. **Randy Ihara**, Vice President of Diversity Fairs and head of U.N. project for Diversity Fairs.
5. **Pastor Carlos Lawson**, non-voting member. A founder of Diversity Fairs, the Edwin Washington Project and the Conklin Village Project
6. **Doug Miller**, Chair of Board of Directors, Oatlands
7. **Larry Roeder**, President of Diversity Fairs, Principal Investigator for the Edwin Washington Project and Editorial Board Chair for Bulletin of Loudoun County History.
8. **Hari Sharma**, CPA and Treasurer
9. **Sherri Simmons**, non-voting member until elected to the Board. Liaison to the Loudoun County Public Schools. Prior Host of Dirt Don't Burn, 2018.

## President's Report

**Decision Needed:** To approve or edit the report, the purpose of which was to record our main accomplishments and hurdles in 2018 and lay out strategy and tactics for 2019 and beyond. The Board agreed to the report, without edit. The main headings were:

1. **The Edwin Washington Project:** Our flagship effort.
2. **The John Rust Project:** A large number of historical documents donated to our organization in 2017. They cover schools and the economic and social history of Loudoun, as well as the Rust family, dating back to 1832.
3. **The Bulletin for Loudoun County History:** A new project enabling us to publish the results of our research and build relationships with other researchers.
4. **The United Nations Project.** Included a new recommendation to join Civicus, a global non-profit network, and gain associated status with UN/DPI (Department of Public Information) and ECOSOC, important U.N. bodies, which will give us opportunities to influence international policies on diversity and human rights, as well as link with potential donor and policy partners.
5. **Fundraising**
6. **Speaker and Media Events**
7. **Mapping**, mainly about expanding the effort.
8. **Special Progress Reports** due in late 2019 and early 2020.
9. **Journal on Black Education** in the region, slated for creation in 2020.
10. **Interviews, Websites, the Catalog and Files**
11. **Partnering with Local Leaders and organizations**
12. **Volunteers**, including the need for a volunteer coordinator

## Management Composition



The Board of Directors agrees on corporate policy and strategic direction, based on their own conscience and experience, as well as recommendations by the President, who decides on tactics. Recommendations by non-voting members are also considered.

**DECISION ONE:** The membership and the officers were reelected. Board terms are for two years, so the next election will be Wednesday, Feb 17, 2021<sup>1</sup>.

**Members re-elected:** Larry Roeder, Doug Miller, Anthony Arciero, Hari Sharma and Randy Ihara.

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<sup>1</sup> Officer slots have different terms than Board slots. See Bylaws, Articles VI and VIII.

**DECISION TWO: Board Expansion.** Julie Goforth and Sherri Simmons were added. Board terms are for two years, so the next election will be Wednesday, Feb 17, 2021.

### **Financial Report:**

The report for 2019 was presented orally by Hari Sharma and adopted without edit. In summary, it indicated that the financial health of the corporation is excellent and that our income is enough to cover current and projected expenses. In addition, we have attracted major in-kind donations of services, which should be recognized. Larry also asked that Hari take measures to ensure that we don't need to pay sales and property taxes.

One new item was the creation of a rainy-day fund to support our projects during economic down-turns. Another new decision was to seek corporate insurance.

Much discussion took place on using donations given to cover travel expenses. A process was agreed, as defined by Hari and Larry.

Special note was also taken of the following in-kind contributions in 2018 and early 2019, totally over \$35,000.

- Multi-spectral analysis by the Library of Congress of a 1913-1919 handwritten ledger by former Superintendent Oscar Emerick. The exercise is revealing text hidden for over a century by pasted-on newsprint. The value of the project has been estimated to be more than \$30,000.
- Digitization by Neil Steinberg of many old photographs in the Edwin Washington Project. Neil plans to digitize many more in 2019 and will partner with us on a show of a sample of the photos in Leesburg, probably in conjunction with First Friday celebrations. The value of the work conducted by the meeting has been estimated at \$3,000. We anticipate a similar or greater contribution in 2019.
- Hosting Dirt Don't Burn 2018 was our most significant event in 2018 and benefited from various in-kind contributions.
  - Loudoun County Public Schools. This included the venue and other services by the county. Douglass isn't usually rented, so the value of this package has been estimated at \$1200, based on rental fees for similarly sized county facilities.
  - Prosperity Baptist Church: Contributed very valuable volunteers and \$100 in food.
  - Gladys Burke of Adj Enterprises contributed \$600 in official conference bags,
  - Fred Zafran contributed photographic services valued at \$525

Larry and Julie are working on proposals for grants from Virginia Preservation and a grant from Digitization and Audio Preservation Funding from CLIR<sup>2</sup>. Larry encouraged

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<sup>2</sup> *Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives: Enabling New Scholarship through Increasing Access to Unique Materials* is a national grant competition administered by the Council on Library and

all members to look for more opportunities and Myron accepted a request from the Board to act as a central clearing house for proposals on grants.

## Bylaws



**Decision Needed:** To amend the bylaws because we have expanded our objectives, to include the U.N. project and the Bulletin of Loudoun County History. The Board agreed to amend the bylaws and a copy of the amended product is posted on our website.

## Permanent Home for Edwin Washington Papers



**DECISION NEEDED:** Should the Edwin Washington Papers be housed on a permanent basis, and if so, how will that be managed?

The Board agreed that the preferred option is a permanent home in Leesburg, in particular the historic portion of the Douglass High School building. It was also agreed that:

- While the Library of Virginia is an excellent alternative, an option suggested for consideration by Preservation, Virginia, the preference is to keep the records close to the citizens of Loudoun, not split them up, the view being that the package has unique historical significance. The petitions should be kept in Loudoun or if impossible, be donated to the Smithsonian.
- Larry will develop a cost and labor estimate for properly storing the records on a long-term basis. The Board also committed to raise funds and solicit volunteer staff to maintain the records, if the School System agrees.
- Larry was also asked to build a political alliance to support permanent protection, which should include Danielle Nadler of Loudoun Now and other appropriate well-known friends such as Delegates John Bell and David Reid, as well as Mayor Kelly Burke. Tony is also producing a related survey of volunteers and stakeholders
- The Edwin Washington Project should continue to scan as many records as allowed and post them on the website, as suggested by Preservation, Virginia. This will provide easy access to the data by anyone from any location. The only

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Information Resources (CLIR) for digitizing rare and unique content in collecting institutions. The program is generously supported by [The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#) and is built upon the model of CLIR's *Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives* program (2008-2014).

exceptions are documents restricted by state law. Larry indicated he needs more volunteer support.

- The community (white and black) should continue to be consulted and Dirt Don't Burn 2019 should take up the topic as an agenda item. Further, other opportunities should also be sought to engage the community.
- If we are only allowed to protect some papers, we must recommend a way that is professional and sensitive to the African-American and White communities, both of which will want to protect knowledge of what happened to their ancestors.

The Board also listened to Myron Curtis of Broad Run High School, who leads a team of 27 students who will support Dirt Don't Burn 2019, conduct a statistical study on 32 former "colored school," based on Edwin Washington Records, expand our digital footprint and help us raise funds. *See also discussion on Edwin Washington Prize.*

## Archeological Digs



**DECISION:** Should we move forward n Archeology, in particular "digs."

The Board agreed to continue surveying the physical location of former schools, as well as map and document former buildings, including making site visits, making interior photos, measurements, etc.,

The Board also agreed on the value of conducting actual digs on ruins. Recognizing that new funds will be required, special insurance, permits and other items, Larry was asked to develop a formal project proposal for consideration at the 2020 Annual Meeting, with the aim of conducting formal digs in 2021. For now, priority potential digs are likely to be the Mountain Gap and Bluemont colored school sites; but others are possible. so, recommendations should be solicited.

## Edwin Washington Prize



**DECISION:** Whether to create the Edwin Washington Prize, an award recognizing contemporary examples of the sort of zeal and leadership for quality education and equality of the races we discovered in the files.

The Board agreed, beginning with Dirt Don't Burn 2019, to provide an annual Edwin Washington Prize,

- One prize will be a certificate and cash award of \$1,000 to the student, regardless of race, culture or religion, sex or sexual orientation who best exemplifies educational heroism of Edwin Washington.
- A second prize will consist of a certificate to the parent, regardless of race, culture or religion, sex or sexual orientation who best exemplifies the educational heroism shown by parents during the period of segregation.
- A third prize will consist of a certificate and possibly a monetary gift to the public or private school educator or other staff member, regardless of race, culture or religion, sex or sexual orientation who best exemplifies the educational bravery and creativity shown during the period of segregation.

The Board also agreed that the Prize will be a part of the Bylaws, excepting the amounts of any monetary gifts, which will be determined by the Board each year.

The Board also authorized a fund-raising effort to monetize the Prize and asked Myron Curtis to work with his team on developing approaches for fund raising and selecting people for consideration. The final decision on winners will be made by vote of the Board prior to Dirt Don't Burn, 2019.

## Other Business

1. **Award:** Larry announced that at the request of Gert Evans, one our most important volunteers, Larry nominated the entire Edwin Washington Volunteer team for the Outstanding Volunteer Award by Loudoun Cares of Leesburg.
2. **Conference:** Larry also announced the Country School Association of America has invited the Edwin Washington Project to present a briefing at their June 16-19 Annual Conference in Frederick, Maryland. They have also accepted an article for publication by the Edwin Washington Project on the exposure of African-Americans to high school level training between 1865 and 1941.
3. **Format:** Larry asked if the format chosen for the Report and Decision Packet were useful. The Board agreed they were very helpful.