CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
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MEMORIALIZATION COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: 10/27/2020

Time: 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

City Staff: Jesse Moos (JM)

In attendance: Steph Aman (SA), Ellenor Barish (EB), Kerri Connolly (KC), Robert LaPointe (RL), Sara Marx (SM), Will Mbah (WM), Mary Jo Rossetti (MJR).

Absent: David Guss (DG)

Agenda:

Meeting was called to order at 6PM

Introductions: As this was our first meeting, each member introduced themselves to the MC, explaining who they are why they are interested in serving on the Committee.

Discussion of the purpose and procedures of the Memorialization Committee:

JM read from the ordinance and the criteria of what qualifies a person to have an asset named after them. SA asked some qualifying questions about if the City would accept private donations to name items after certain people, with the answer being no. SA asked if the MC was in charge of naming existing assets or only new one, with the answer being new ones.

The MC discussed the need for having a Chair Person to lead the meetings, WM suggested that RL would make a good Chair Person, no vote was taken. Item was tabled, to be discussed at subsequent meeting and will include a formal self-nominating process via email prior to our next meeting.

MJR suggested that the City Staff speak to the Ward Councilors for suggestions and ideas for an asset to be named if it falls in their Ward. City Staff will do this going forward.

MJR asked how names are submitted from the public or the committee of a candidate for an asset to be named after. Email memorial@somervillema.gov the person with a description of accomplishments which will then be reviewed by the MC

The subject of diversity was brought up by KC and how we can use that as a guide when selecting candidates for assets. WM asked about how many assets have been named after women and people of color in the city.JM will look into this.

WM suggested speaking to other municipalities and finding out their process for naming assets. JM will contact them.

Community outreach strategies were discussed, led by KC including how to be advertise opportunities of items to be named by this committee via City social media where the City would post about it with a brief description of the asset and ask that suggestions be emailed to memorial@somervillema.gov JM will follow up with the Communications Dept. and see if this is possible.

KC asked about how many items of recognition are needed for each candidate. SM added that an obituary is not always the best research tool and we should look to find other written accommodations of each candidate. The committee did not determine this and it will be discussed again in subsequent meetings.

EB suggested having a slide at Resistat meetings with naming opportunities for assets relevant to the Ward the meeting is being held in.

EB brought up the idea of getting involved with Somerville Schools to see if this could be an interesting Project for students to submit names to the MC.

RL asked about how the MC is advertised on the City website. JM will work with the Webmaster to create a stronger landing page for the Committee.

JM shared a spreadsheet he had put together of potential names of candidates. List will be shared via email to the MC and then converted to a shared document that all members can contribute to.

Assets to be named:

Discussion of naming a park at 1060 Broadway. JM proposed the naming of a new park at 1060 Broadway to be named after former State Rep Mary Fantasia. Item was tabled, to be discussed at subsequent meeting.

Discussion of naming a new street outside of Boynton Yards between Windsor Street and Earle Street. JM proposed naming this new street after the inventor of Fluff, Archibald Query Item was tabled, to be discussed at subsequent meeting.

Adjourned at 7:24 PM

Next meeting date: Tuesday November 17th at 6PM.