

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
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MEMORIALIZATION COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: 12/08/2020

Time: 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

City Staff: Jesse Moos (JM)

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

Agenda:

Meeting was called to order at 6:04PM

The November minutes had two edits called for by WM and MJR separately, JM made the edits and the minutes were **unanimously approved**.

Discussion of the purpose and procedures of the Memorialization Committee:

KC continued the discussion on double honorees, using examples of Deanna Cremin, who has a park and a square named after her. EB discussed how if an honoree has a plaque in a location that is not accessible to the public, like a school, should then they be also honored in some other larger more visible fashion. DG asks the question what would be the justification of honoring someone a second time. KC asks is the MC open to honoring a person with a second location? RL brought up the importance of the location of the named asset having a connection to where the person lived or worked. EB brought up the question if the honoree was originally honored when they were alive versus now that they have passed and if that makes a difference.

KC called for a vote for a policy to allow double nominations, of people who have already been honored in some fashion, if the situation arises. **Unanimously approved**

WM continued the conversation over unfortunate tragic deaths in our community and how to honor those that passed. SA spoke of pedestrians that were killed on Mystic Ave and infrastructure improvements that were made on these streets and could we memorialize these crossings in those that passed' s honor. EB brought up getting in contact with family members (through a letter) of the deceased to determine if it's





the appropriate time to create a memorial. KC brought up the concern of risk with honoring someone too soon if there is a legal or optic issue. We don't want to have a memorial look like an appeasement. DG brought up the story of two slaves who were tragically killed as looking for a way to remember them. WM acknowledges that we will never have a comprehensive list, but we should have a transparent process to honor these people who have died of tragic deaths. MJR suggests creating a small working group to learn from other communities how they honor community members who have passed tragically. KC, SA and MJR agree to join this subcommittee. WM was pleased with the creation of this subcommittee.

RL asked if the MC has a budget for memorials outside of street signs that Traffic & Parking would pay for and private construction (parks) that contractors would pay for? JM will have a conversation with the administration to determine if so.

SM discussed improvements to the nomination process wanting to have a better understanding of which candidates we are reviewing prior to holding our monthly meeting. KC suggested sending out an agenda with any pre-work about candidates prior to our meeting. JM will provide this going forward.

RL and DG discussed renaming the master list to "proposed, not vetted recommendation List".

Additions to the Proposed, Not Yet Vetted Recommendation List

JM presented Ken Kelly, **Unanimously approved.**

JM presented Walter Pero, **Unanimously approved.**

JM presented Lou Ann David, **Unanimously approved.**

JM presented Mary Fantasia, **Unanimously approved.**

JM presented Archibald Query, **Unanimously approved.**

JM presented Stan Koty, **Unanimously approved.**

EB presented Julie DiPasquale, **Unanimously approved.**

Assets to be named:

Discussion of naming a park at 1060 Broadway: JM had originally proposed the naming of a new park at 1060 Broadway to be named after former State Rep Mary Fantasia. JM retracted his suggestion of naming the park after State Rep Mary Fantasia and instead submitted Lou Ann David. MJR will speak to the Ward Councilor about the name. EB and MJR also discussed naming it after Julie DiPasquale. KC suggests that both candidates be presented at our January meeting, Julie DiPasquale by MJR and Lou Ann David by JM with the hopes of having a final vote.





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. KC challenged the MC to come up with an alternative for consideration to be discussed at subsequent meeting.

Adjourned at 8:00 PM

Next meeting date: January 19th 2021

