

**Citizens' Advisory Council on Furnishing and Interpreting the
Executive Mansion
Richmond, VA
Quarterly Meeting
June 12, 2024**

Members in attendance: Betsy D. Beamer, Dorothy F. Boone, David Botkins, Gloria Marrero Chambers, Christie D. Clarke, Patty Coleman, Winona C. Coles, Aggie Cullen, Sharon Davis, Donnalyn W. Ennels, Mary C. Frediani, Linda H. Garbee, Bryan C. Green, Jill Hade, Hunter H. Ihrman, Rasheedah Ishon Nevers, Christine Marscheider Thompson, Lindsay Renee Watson, Lauren B. Woodson, Dena Potter, Georgia Esposito.

Welcome and call to order: Chair Betsy Beamer welcomed the CAC members back to the Executive Mansion and called the meeting to order at 12:58pm. Before lunch, Betsy welcomed and introduced the new members to the CAC Board. Secretary Gloria Chambers reported that we have a quorum for business, there were 19 members present. The minutes for the December 13 meeting, the March 13 meeting and the March 25 zoom meeting were presented. Hunter H. Ihrman made a correction to the March 25, 2024 minutes; he added that Hunter Ihrman was elected Vice Chair for a two year term until March 2026. A motion to adopt the minutes as corrected was made by Mary Frediani and second by David Botkins. The motion passed unanimously.

Hunter Ihrman made a motion to reelect Betsy Beamer as chair of the CAC. Patty Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Betsy Beamer will continue as Chair of the Citizen's Advisory Council on Furnishing and Interpreting the Executive Mansion for another two year term until March 2026.

First Lady's Remarks: First Lady Suzanne Youngkin welcome the CAC members to the Mansion. She started her remarks by sharing a brief summary on the heritage of this organization. Governor and Mrs. Linwood Holton, who lived in the Mansion from 1970-1974, were inspired by the historic renovation being done at The White House by Mrs. John F Kennedy. The Holtons decided to overtake the renovation of the Executive Mansion of Virginia. While working on this project Mrs. Holton developed the idea for an advisory committee to assist in research and

understanding of the Mansion's history. Governor Holton sent legislation to the General Assembly creating a committee to support the Executive Mansion. At that time no money was requested, only recognition of the committee and the framework for its private funding. The bill became law and the Citizens Advisory Committee on Furnishing and Interpreting the Executive Mansion was created. In the 1980's the Committee name was changed to Council. Since the 70's this group has come together to make sure this Home is duly represented, interpreted, exhibits hospitality, and is part of our Commonwealth's history. Mrs. Youngkin thanked the CAC members for their service, time and commitment. The First Lady is so grateful we are part of history in the making in this home.

Rosa Woodring, Assistant to the Executive Mansion Director, prepared a beautiful photo power point presentation to go with the following highlights given by the First Lady.

The Virginia Museum of History and Culture has an exhibit on Julia Child and Michelin Chef Patrick O'Connell was invited to attend the grand opening of the exhibit. After the exhibit, Patrick O'Connell and media personalities in attendance were hosted at the Executive Mansion for a fabulous luncheon.

The last week of April, the Mansion was open for historic Garden Week. The grand opening was on Friday, April 26th. The James River Garden Club, Judy Boland and Anne Goettman decorated the Mansion with the help of Tony Griffin from DGS. Mary Frediani lead the group from the James River Garden Club that made the flower arrangements. The docents welcomed over 700 hundred guests on opening day. The photos are beautiful! That night, Governor and Mrs. Youngkin, invited all previous Governors and First Ladies to the Mansion for a very special dinner. It started with cocktails in the garden and they had two wonderful musicians from southwest Virginia. It was a wonderful evening!

The Mansion hosted a gathering for the Teacher of the Year Award. The 8 regional winners together with their families were invited to the Mansion and Governor Youngkin presented the Award. Avanti Yamamoto, a mathematics teacher at Atlee High School in Hanover County, won the Award. Another fabulous event!

The Mansion also hosted a Graduation Tea Party for “Girls with Pearls” program from Petersburg, VA. This program is a collaboration between the First Lady’s Office, women groups, the community and schools in Petersburg, VA. As an incentive for the girls to have perfect participation in the program they were invited to the Executive Mansion for a Tea Party with the First Lady. Each girl brought one guest. The girls also had a tour of the Capital Building and a tour of the Executive Mansion. The Mansion will be hosting this event again!

The Mansion just celebrated Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month. The Governor and First Lady welcomed 200 Virginians. It was a wonderful ceremony with special musicians and dancers. The mansion is featuring a Japanese artist this month as part of the Art Experience.

The Mansion also hosted this month the LGBTQ+ Advisory Board for Pride month.

The new Art Experience 3.0 will be installed in August. Rosa has done a great job archiving the Art Experiences on the website. Rosa also produced the new Mansion brochure that we provide for our visitors.

The First Lady will be doing an interview at the Mansion with Virginia Living Magazine on June 13th.

The Library of Virginia Magazine, *The Broadside*, featured the Art Experience 2.0 at the Executive Mansion in their latest edition.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer, Patty Coleman, presented the report. We have not received the accounting from May. As of April 30, 2024, the financial statement of the CAC has a balance of \$53,015.50 in the state account.

By-laws Review: Patty Coleman presented the changes of the by-laws, which were approved by the Executive Committee. The language in the by-laws referencing a First Lady was changed to refer to the Spouse of the Governor of Virginia. Another change made was in section 4; the expenditure policy created for the CAC was added to this section. The biggest change to the by-laws was that we can meet remotely via TEAMS. The Council and committees can meet remotely every other time. The language for remote participation came over from changes made by the General Assembly. The changes for the by-laws come as

a recommendation from the executive committee so Betsy Beamer asked for the recommendation to be seconded. Dorothy Boone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Furnishings and Collections: Gloria Chambers, committee member provided the report. We met on April 17, 2024 and requested \$25,000 to assist in the refurbishment of the Lady's Parlor. The interior designers are working on pulling fabrics and ideas and we'll have those to review soon. We will run the selected fabrics by the committee. The \$25,000 to allocate to the Furnishings and Collections committee line item was unanimously recommended by the committee. Betsy Beamer asked for the recommendation to be seconded. Mary Frediani seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Education Committee: Winona Coles, Committee Chair, presented the report. The Committee meet in March and suggest a \$2,000.00 place holder for their budget. The projects that they are working on at the moment do not require a lot of money. Betsy Beamer asked for the recommendation to be seconded. Donnalyn Ennels seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Building and Restoration: David Botkins, Committee Chair, presented the report. The committee meet virtually prior to our meeting. The committee is requesting \$5,000.00 for something unanticipated. They do not have an anticipated expense at the moment. This is a unanimous recommendation from the committee. Betsy Beamer asked for the recommendation to be seconded. Hunter Ihrman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Art Experience: Betsy Beamer presented the report because Anne Goettman and Judy Boland were not present. They are both working hard at getting the pieces that will form part of Art Experience 3.0. The current Art Experience will be taken down in August and Art Experience 3.0 will be installed. The theme this year is "Around the Commonwealth". They met as a committee and are requesting \$2,000.00. This is a recommendation from the committee so Betsy Beamer asked for the recommendation to be seconded. Sharon Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mansion Director's Report: Executive Mansion Director, Georgia Esposito, presented the report.

June and July will be dedicated to working on different house projects. The windows of the mansion need UV coating and Georgia is hoping the project will be financially approved.

They are finalizing the pathway plans from the front of the house to the Valentine Jackson Garden. The Youngkins will like to make a gift to the garden, maybe bench, where people can sit and have a view into the garden. The garden cannot be made handicap accessible so the bench will help people that cannot go down into the garden to have a better view of the space from above the garden.

The Lady's Parlor is being refurbished. We are planning on getting new panel drapes for the windows. A decision on fabrics has not been made yet. Interior designer Vickie Blanchard and Patty Loughridge are helping with the decoration of the Parlor. We would also like to get an area rug.

In August, the Art Experience will switch over. The Virtual Tour for the Mansion is waiting for the new Art Experience to be installed so it can be included.

The 2024-2025 Meeting Dates: September 18, 2024, December 11, 2024, March 12, 2025, June 11, 2025

Other Business:

DGS Report: Dena Potter, Director of Communications Department of General Services, presented the DGS report to the board. The projects in Capital Square are done. The DGS removed 200+ year old trees that were dangerous. They are working very closely with VA250 July 4th celebration taking place at Capital Square from 4:00 to 9:00pm. The DGS is also working with the Public Safety Memorial.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Betsy Beamer at 1:49pm

Respectfully Submitted.

Accepted/corrected