



District of Columbia Emancipation Day Commemoration Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, February 3, 2022

Time: 6:37 PM – 7:34 PM

Platform: WebEx

Lead: Kimberly Bassett

In Attendance: Mary Ivey, Helga Baskett-Tippett, Howard Marks, Ayanna Hawkins, Malissa Freese, Sabrina Thomas, Emily Martin.

Notes:

1. Secretary Bassett informed the Commission that there will be a DC Emancipation Day Parade this year, as well as the annual Emancipation Day event at Freedom Plaza, including the concert on April 16th.
 - a. The plan for the parade is to take place between 2-3 PM and the concert will begin around 4 PM.
2. The Secretary informed the Commission that the Office of the Secretary's Performance Oversight Testimony will take place on February 9th.
3. Commissioner Marks mentioned Commissioner Thomas' comment from last week's meeting about the story of the Pearl and how it is a story that very few people know. He will investigate who the experts around the subject are, since it also includes the history of DC.
4. Commissioner Thomas mentioned the follow up email she sent regarding the details of story of the Pearl. Emily will share these emails with the Commission at Commissioner Thomas' request.
5. Commissioner Freese noted that the week before Emancipation Day (4/11-4/18) DCPS will be on spring break.
6. Commissioner Hawkins inquired if the Commission should be looking at a week of programming, with the culmination of the celebration on the 16th being the Emancipation Day parade.
 - a. The Secretary suggested that the Commission could also consider the week of April 4th for programming as well, with hopes of reaching DCPS students since they will be on break.

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7. Commissioner Thomas reminded the group of the statue of Abraham Lincoln at Lincoln Park and Frederick Douglass' keynote speech at the unveiling and suggested an educational discussion panel as a possible program.
8. Secretary Bassett noted that William Branch, Historian at the DC Archives is an excellent resource in planning for Emancipation Day programming.
9. Commissioner Thomas mentioned that partnering with the DC libraries would be beneficial to further connect with schools, as well as for showing the DC Emancipation Day documentary produced in 2021.
 - a. She also suggested that the Commission could take the opportunity to host a virtual event that focuses on Frederick Douglass.
10. The Commission discussed how the idea of a "kickoff" for Emancipation "month" (April) at Frederick Douglass' home (now a national historic site) could be an option.
11. Commissioner Ivey noted that the Commission should aim to ensure that events are presented in a chronological order.
12. Commissioner Thomas suggested that with the timeline, keeping to a hybrid plan may be the best, and the Commission could engage with last year's panelists again. Particularly regarding engaging DCPS, a virtual portion of the program would be beneficial.
13. The Secretary noted that the goal is to have the program organized by the first week of March so the Commission can begin promoting the 2022 Emancipation Day events.
14. The Secretary noted that members of the Commission should lead respective program events, especially since they have brought many great ideas to each meeting.
15. Commissioner Baskett-Tippett and Commissioner Freese suggested the idea of an event that incorporates voter education.
16. The Secretary will get in touch with the DC Public Libraries regarding programming.
17. The Secretary thanked everyone and requested that everyone share any additional ideas they may have via email.