

Advisory Commission on Portraits

Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2019

Opening:

Justice Robin Hudson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am on August 15, 2019 at the North Carolina Judicial Center, 901 Corporate Center Drive, Raleigh, NC 27607.

Justice Hudson welcomed members and explained her role as convener of the first Commission meeting, a role that terminates upon election of leadership from within the Commission.

Justice Hudson introduced Amanda Bryan, Administrative Counsel to Chief Justice Beasley, who kept the minutes of the meeting.

Commission members introduced themselves.

Present:

Catherine Bishir
Rachel Blunk (late arrival)
Shelley Edwards
Hon. Bob Hunter
Michelle Lanier
Danny Moody
Bree Newsome-Bass
Dr. Elliot Palmer (late arrival)
Steve Stevenson
Hon. Patricia Timmons-Goodson
Dr. Darin Waters
Hon. Willis Whichard
Dr. Lyneise Williams

Absent:

Dr. Paul Bitting
James Ferguson

New Business:

Establishment of quorum. Justice Hudson opened the floor for discussion of the number of members whose presence is required to establish quorum. Commissioner Stevenson proposed that 50% plus one of the members as the Commission is presently constituted will establish quorum. Judge Hunter

moved to accept the proposal and Justice Timmons-Goodson seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Vote required to act. Justice Hudson opened the floor for discussion of the number of members whose votes are required for the Commission to take action. Judge Hunter proposed 50% plus one of the voting members. Several commissioners voiced concern that this could result in action taken by only a few individuals if many commissioners are absent from a meeting. Justice Whichard proposed a vote of two-thirds should be required. No action was taken on this item.

Selection of leadership. Justice Hudson opened the floor for selection of leadership. Commissioner Lanier suggested requesting the Chief Justice appoint a chair, and Commissioner Stevenson concurred. Justice Hudson suggested selecting an acting chair to present questions to the Chief Justice regarding this and other matters. Commissioner Newsome-Bass nominated Commissioner Lanier. Commissioner Lanier suggested a co-chair model and nominated Commissioner Moody as co-chair. Commissioner Stevenson moved to select Commissioners Lanier and Moody as acting co-chairs, seconded by several commissioners. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Justice Hudson passed leadership of the meeting to co-chairs Lanier and Moody.

Questions for the Chief Justice. Co-chair Lanier opened the floor for discussion of questions to be presented to the Chief Justice. Co-chairs Lanier and Moody will submit a letter to the Chief Justice requesting clarification on (1) whether funding is available to cover travel costs and other expenses of the Commission; (2) whether the timeline set out in the original order establishing the Commission may be extended, and by how long; (3) whether a staff member will be provided to assist the Commission; and (4) what is the intended scope of the Commission's work.

Miscellaneous. Co-chair Lanier inquired whether there is a record of the Court's existing policy regarding artwork. Justice Hudson volunteered that she has a copy of the policy and will provide it to the Commission.

Commissioner Stevenson suggested the Commission could benefit from a facilitator for a guided conversation on white supremacy and other potentially sensitive topics. Co-chair Lanier asked Commissioner Stevenson to bring information to the next meeting regarding resources for facilitators and cost estimates if possible.

Justice Timmons-Goodson suggested the Commission receive a historical presentation to give all members a common understanding of the facts relevant to issues to be discussed. Co-chair Lanier suggested a panel discussion by Commissioners Bishir, Waters, Newsome-Bass, and Williams would be helpful, and each agreed to participate.

Dr. Waters suggested the Commissioners should read an article authored by Commissioner Bishir and offered to provide a copy of the article prior to the next meeting.

Date/location for next meeting. Co-chair Lanier proposed the next meeting be held October 7, 2019 at 2pm at the Supreme Court, 2 E. Morgan Street, Raleigh, NC 27601. No formal vote was taken, but all in attendance agreed.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Stevenson moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:30pm, seconded by many. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.