

# Advisory Commission on Portraits

Meeting Minutes  
September 22, 2020  
via Webex

## Opening:

Co-chair Michelle Lanier called the meeting to order at approximately 1 p.m. on September 22, 2020.

## Establishment of Quorum:

Commission Staff Amanda Bryan called roll. With twelve members present, a quorum was established. The following members were present:

Catherine Bishir  
Rachel Blunk  
Shelley Lucas Edwards  
Hon. Robert N. Hunter  
Michelle Lanier  
Danny Moody  
Bree Newsome Bass  
Dr. E.B. Palmer  
R.E. "Steve" Stevenson, III  
Dr. Darin Waters  
Hon. Willis Whichard  
Dr. Lyneise Williams

## Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Palmer moved to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2020 meeting. Rachel Blunk seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following votes:

Catherine Bishir	Yes
Rachel Blunk	Yes
Shelley Lucas Edwards	Yes
Hon. Robert N. Hunter	Yes
Michelle Lanier	Yes
Danny Moody	Yes
Bree Newsome Bass	Yes
Dr. E.B. Palmer	Yes
R.E. "Steve" Stevenson, III	Yes
Dr. Darin Waters	Yes
Hon. Willis Whichard	Yes
Dr. Lyneise Williams	Yes

Judge Hunter moved to adopt the recommendation proposed by Justice Whichard identified as Appendix A. Steve Stevenson seconded. The motion failed with the following votes:

Catherine Bishir	Yes
Rachel Blunk	Yes
Shelley Lucas Edwards	Yes
Hon. Robert N. Hunter	Yes
Michelle Lanier	Abstain
Danny Moody	No
Bree Newsome Bass	No
Dr. E.B. Palmer	Yes
R.E. "Steve" Stevenson, III	Yes
Dr. Darin Waters	No
Hon. Willis Whichard	Yes
Dr. Lyneise Williams	No

Co-chair Lanier moved to recommend simply removing the Ruffin portrait, without recommending replacement of the portrait. Catherine Bishir seconded. The motion failed with the following votes:

Catherine Bishir	Yes
Rachel Blunk	Yes
Shelley Lucas Edwards	Yes
Hon. Robert N. Hunter	No
Michelle Lanier	Yes
Danny Moody	No
Bree Newsome Bass	Yes
Dr. E.B. Palmer	Yes
R.E. "Steve" Stevenson, III	No
Dr. Darin Waters	Abstain
Hon. Willis Whichard	No
Dr. Lyneise Williams	Yes

Co-chair Moody moved to submit to the Court a letter from the Commission that the group was unable to reach a consensus on a recommendation regarding the portraits. The motion was not seconded.

Dr. Palmer moved to submit to the Court the recommendation as proposed by Justice Whichard, previously approved by the Commission, identified as Appendix A. Steve Stevenson seconded. The motion passed with the following votes:

Catherine Bishir	Yes
Rachel Blunk	Yes
Shelley Lucas Edwards	Yes
Hon. Robert N. Hunter	Yes
Michelle Lanier	Yes
Danny Moody	No
Bree Newsome Bass	No
Dr. E.B. Palmer	Yes
R.E. "Steve" Stevenson, III	Yes
Dr. Darin Waters	No
Hon. Willis Whichard	Yes
Dr. Lyneise Williams	No

**Adjournment:**

Dr. Palmer moved to adjourn the meeting sine die. Judge Hunter seconded.  
The motion passed with the following votes:

Catherine Bishir	
Rachel Blunk	Yes
Shelley Lucas Edwards	Yes
Hon. Robert N. Hunter	Yes
Michelle Lanier	Yes
Danny Moody	
Bree Newsome Bass	Yes
Dr. E.B. Palmer	Yes
R.E. "Steve" Stevenson, III	
Dr. Darin Waters	Yes
Hon. Willis Whichard	Yes
Dr. Lyneise Williams	Yes

Co-chair Lanier adjourned the meeting sine die.

Proposed Motion  
for  
Portraits Commission

That the Portraits Commission recommend to the Supreme Court of North Carolina the following action regarding the portrait of Chief Justice Thomas Ruffin:

That the Court adopt a rule limiting the size of future portraits of former chief justices and associate justices of the Court to that of the largest of such portraits in the Court's current collection, excepting the portrait of Chief Justice Ruffin;

That the Court then commission the painting of a new portrait of Chief Justice Ruffin that conforms to the newly adopted rule relating to portrait size, said portrait to be prepared from the Ruffin portrait owned by the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; the Societies have indicated a willingness to loan their Ruffin portrait to the Court for a maximum period of five years for this purpose; the Commission recommends that the Court accept that offer;

That the new portrait, so commissioned, replace the oversized Ruffin portrait currently in the Justice Building Courtroom, and that the extant Ruffin portrait be placed in storage with the North Carolina Museum of History or the North Carolina Museum of Art, as the Court, in consultation with the appropriate officials of these state institutions, deems most appropriate or desirable;

That the placement of the new Ruffin portrait be moved one space to the left, when facing it, of the locale of the present Ruffin portrait, and the portraits of Ruffin's successor chief justices be moved one space to accommodate the new Ruffin portrait, thereby retaining the current chronological sequence of the portraits;

That a large replica of the seal of the Supreme Court be prepared and placed in the current locale of the Ruffin portrait; and

That the Court adopt a rule that henceforth the Court seal shall occupy said space, and no portrait of any former chief justice shall occupy said space to the immediate rear of the sitting chief justice's seat in the Courtroom.