

Hyattsville Flag Redesign Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 9/4/24

7:30pm

Via Zoom

In Attendance: Michael Fischer, Paul Hrusa, Domonique Gibson, Monica Gorman, Katie Burk, Sam Jackson

Also present: Laura Reams, Council Member Jimmy McClellan

Meeting called to order at 7:33pm.

Meeting minutes from 7/23 were approved.

1. Reviewing Public Feedback of Semifinalist Flags

Committee spent the next 5 minutes reviewing public feedback comments.

Michael notes the fact that the vote being so close is an indication that we picked solid designs to be considered.

Sam noted that the feedback seemed mostly focused on the colors and less on the designs. There were some very strongly worded comments.

Monica said people are very attached to certain colors – but that we shouldn't get too wrapped up in that as a committee. Domonique concurs.

Michael noted that there was a very consistent critique about the flags being too “busy”, too “Maryland”, too “corporate.”

Discussed the number of designs that we should submit to the committee. Sam voices that the committee should only submit one design, as we have done the most leg work and are more familiar with community feedback. Jimmy notes that the city council is expecting to see at least a couple of options. Laura sent around the committee “worksheet,” which notes that the committee is expected to submit “one or more” design options to the council.

Committee discusses the “rails” flag – decides not to move forward with this design. The oak design was not a winner either – Paul felt the design was a little redundant.

Discussed the “sunflower” flag. Most controversial flag – a lot of people liked it, but many strongly disliked it. Concerns about the black color and it being too militaristic. Domonique notes it does not feel very “Hyattsville.”

Some discussion about the “5 wards” symbolism. Michael notes that we do not have to officially say that the 5 rings or pedals directly relate to the wards. Paul agrees.

Flower flag was the most popular, and Sam notes that far fewer people had this flag in last or second to last place.

Some discussion on color and whether or not red should be considered because of the city's branding. Laura notes that branding will continually change and that it should not be factored into the committee's decision.

Michael, Paul, and Sam like the flower flag the best. Want to see some different iterations with the Black-eyed-Susan and other colors. Monica does not like the Black-eyed-Susan flag and thinks we should eliminate it – said it does not feel very Hyattsville.

Katie thinks that people may be associating the two flower-based flags together. Wants to see more options with the “Ward ring” flag.

Committee agrees that we should see some more mockups of the flower and five wards flags. Katie says she can have some designs ready by Friday.

Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 11th at 7:30pm, which leaves more time for members to review feedback from the community and look at new mockups. There will be flexibility to meet again the following week if needed.

2. Public Comment

Michael Bonds: “Thank you for all your work. It is not easy to narrow things down. I left some different designs in the Hello Hyattsville comments as you consider different options.”

Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.

Minutes recorded by Sam Jackson.