

# Association for the Study of African American Life and History, inc:

301 RHODE ISLAND AVE., NW SUITE 2204, WASHINGTON, DC 20001 P 202.238.5910 | W www.asalh.org

Final Draft minutes taken by Aaisha Haykal

## ASALH

#### EC Agenda June 3, 2021 7:00 p.m. EST Zoom

In attendance: Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Eric Jackson, Lionel Kimble, Annette Palmer, Gilbert Smith, Gladys Gary Vaughn, Gladys Mack, Susan Simms Marsh, Zende Clark, Edna Green Medford, Aaisha Haykel, Sylvia Cyrus, Anton House, Camesha Scruggs, Tara White, Zebulon Miletsky, Maurice Gibson, Barbara Spencer Dunn, Moses Masenburg, Natanya Duncan, Sundiata Cha Jua, Randal Jelks, Annette Palmer, Jeff Banks, Gloria Browne Marshall

Absent: Karsonya Wise Whitehead (joined meeting before Executive Session)

1. President Evelyn Higginbotham:

-Opened meeting and stated that the Agenda had been adopted

2. Secretary's Report

Motion: Moved by Lionel Kimble to accept February 2021 Minutes with necessary corrections. Second Susan Simms Marsh – Passed Unanimously

Motion: Moved by Anita Shepherd to accept April 2021 Minutes with necessary corrections. Second David Walton – Passed Unanimously

Motion: Moved by Natanya Duncan to accept May 2021 Minutes with necessary corrections. Second Susan Simms Marsh – Passed Unanimously

3. President's Report: President Evelyn Higginbotham:

Requested Natanya and Randal to look into the possibility of writing a statement of support for Nicole Hannah-Jones

Charles Farrell is not doing well – please keep him in your thoughts and prayers

Kathy House resigned, effective immediately

National Membership Committee has had tremendous growth

ASALH is one of many groups that are telling our story

We are climbing Woodson's Mountain

The more innovative, we are, the more we reach out to people to all kinds of people good people. The more we agree to disagree in respectful ways, and I can't say that enough we're not going to always agree, we shouldn't always agree, but we have to disagree in respectful ways, but the more we can do that, we will succeed.

#### ASALH MISSION

To promote, research, preserve, interpret, and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community



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4. Governance: Zende ClarkProposal to stagger the EC elections for one year2024: Pres VPM, Treasurer2025: VPP, Sec

Evelyn: I don't think we need to change the Constitution

Annette: We are simply asking for a change in the next round of nominations. When we have everybody leaving at the same time. The possibility exists that, with all the good intentions of the new people coming in, but by the time they get up to speed with what is happening that a number of things could have slipped away all that people would not have interest in certain kinds of programs or situations, this is simply a God, this is simply a way of saving us from anxiety, this is simply a way of protecting the continuity in the programs and in everything else that we do so that we will not have to stop and wait for people to get up to speed or stop and wait for people to organize themselves what usually comes with this kind of change doesn't happen all the time, but it does happen that you do have some kind of upset.

Anita: In my view, succession planning is always to me better when you have key roles rolling off at the same time, you know.

Gladys M: The change that is being recommended is one that I support it. But I have to tell you that my experience with organizations suggests that the synergy in an organization really is built from the incumbent in those positions and there's a lot to be said for having a new team. Gloria: I just wanted to say that I think the Constitution is such an important document that is difficult for to this matter with it and piecemeal forms, I think that it's important.

Natanya: I do think that we do need specific language that in the constitution and a part of whatever persons who become a part of the EC sign that says as a as a function of your service here when you are transitioning off of the Council, that you are prepare yourself to mentor or help guide the next the incumbent person, and I do think that we have had an informal practice to some extent, where incumbent persons do get to attend, like the last meeting.

Zende: Are you as a Council ready for vote on this motion because if so then we could move this motion? We can vote it up or vote it down, and that would give us time to send this Constitution, and by law change out with a ballot and we would not have to incur an additional expense if the Council is ready to take action.

*Motion:* Zende Clark moved on behalf of the Committee, that we stagger the elections, such that the President, the Vice President from membership and the treasurer would be elected in 2024 and the Vice President for programs and the Secretary would be elected in 2025. Motion passed: 13Y; 7N; 2 Abs

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*Motion:* Sundiata Cha Jua moved that the Planning Committee and the Nominations Committee be charged with drafting a transition proposal, to be brought to the Executive Council by the August meeting. Motion passed: 20Y; 2 Abs

Meeting stopped recording as the EC moved into Executive Session to vet candidates