

Two issues

Campione, Leslie <LCampione@lakecountyfl.gov>

Thu 4/4/2019 9:45 AM

To: bobbyag22@gmail.com <bobbyag22@gmail.com>

Dear Bob, thank you for explaining.

I also need your help with issues related to the Smith statue. I need you to jump on this right away - it can be refined and edited later but I need a draft product to review and to report back to the BCC about - even if you start with an outline as the first draft covering topics below. Remember our discussion about using context language for the exhibit to address concerns that have been raised about this statue? Specifically, the fact that some of our residents interpret the placement of this statue in our local museum as a glorification of racial injustice, white supremacy and the slavery era - and a divisive gesture towards current black residents? I also realize that many residents do not see the statue this way and they support the decision to place it in our museum as a way of providing a home for it in a museum after removal from the US Capitol and for preserving history so that future generations can learn from history. With regard to this context language, I have worked on a statement using some of the information I found online regarding St. Augustine's approach will forward to you for your Board's consideration.

I made a commitment to work with you and your Board on identifying appropriate language that would not only tell the story of General Smith (his historical relevance to Floridians and to the state), the Sculptor, the relocation and replacement legislation & the process by which the Lake County museum selected; but it would also describe the local controversy over accepting the statue and different perspectives about historical artifacts and particularly the national debate over removal versus preservation of civil war/confederate monuments; to give context to the statue and assure its inclusion in the museum is grounded in education, I feel it is necessary that you provide the following information with the exhibit: the civil war and its root causes and the role of slavery in the north, south and western territories in relation to federalism and economic autonomy (as factors which led the country into this war), the emancipation proclamation, reconstruction, the Jim Crow era, and the civil rights movement culminating in the voting rights and civil rights acts. I would also like to see an explanation as to why this statue is relevant to (or otherwise connected) to Lake County - for example, providing a resting place for this statue facilitates its replacement with the Bethune statue which seems to be an important connection for Floridians and Lake Countians; what about the many Lake County "historians" and residents who had relatives who were impacted by the civil war and who study civil war history; what about

confederate soldiers from our area who might have served under him, and the effect of the civil war on Florida and on our particular region, or about Florida/Lake County Area residents who were in a similar situation having been asked (or required) to serve in the confederate army - and maybe you could even speak to the occupation of certain areas of Florida by union soldiers (I think Key West, eventually, and St. Augustine where he lived). It would seem a history lesson about civil war era Florida (and the area which now comprises Lake County) is in order for many who don't understand or know about the impacts of this war on the people of Florida and our county, including current residents with families who have lived here for generations and who are from all walks of life - many of whom did not own slaves or who did not support slavery, but they fought for the confederacy, or those who settled here after the war to start new lives. I think that's the thing that bothers me the most - people who want to erase or bury any artifacts related to the confederacy because they over-simplify the causes of the war and they equate the confederacy with promoting slavery despite the fact that the northern states were engaged in slavery, and after the war those who were freed were only those living in the southern states (referred to as slave states, although northern states and new territory continued to have slavery)...they seem to leave these facts out of the public school history books. Oh well, I digress.

I know this is a lot of material to gather and edit but I feel strongly that in light of the prominence of the statue and magnitude of the debate over the statue, this information needs to be made available to the County Commission and to the public and media prior to the statue arriving. This would give everyone an opportunity to see the level of thought and sensitivity that is being exercised. You don't have to give me a finished product all at one time but can submit these subjects as you complete them and you can mark them as drafts. In fact, we should start with an outline.

As noted above, if the Museum board intends to go forward with its inclusion of the Smith statue I need to be able to provide this information in the near future to the County Commission (not after the statue arrives but before this debate goes any further) so that there is a comfort level that these matters are being addressed with sensitivity, with a focus on history, and in a way that helps describe differing views accurately and addresses the division the statue is causing in our community between those who are "for" having it and those who are "against" having it in our Lake County Museum.

Let me know your thoughts by the end of the day tomorrow and let's set some deadline dates. Thank you very much.

Commissioner Leslie Campione, District 4
Lake County Board of County Commissioners

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Public Records: This communication is subject to Florida's public records law which requires retention of all correspondence with public officials and their staff.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 4, 2019, at 7:39 AM, Bob Grenier <bobbyag22@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning Leslie,

I believe you have the correct ones. Howard King says he put that updated version on office computer last Wednesday.

I was on phone with Howard for a couple hours last night. He says that when people pay their dues, they are members, but they are reviewed at the next board meeting to determine if they should be terminated or not. In which case, the membership is revoked and refund made.

So in order to make sure everyone is in, we're gonna keep the board of directors meeting (only discussing all the new memberships) on the 24th to get through all these memberships and reschedule the annual membership meeting for the 30th, so that everyone is a member in good standing for that annual meeting. And I think everyone is in. I love lots of new memberships. With these new memberships, we've more than doubled our membership.

But also, I know what their intentions are.

Bobby

On Thu, Apr 4, 2019, 7:27 AM Campione, Leslie
<LCampione@lakecountyfl.gov> wrote:

This states it is 2015 version?? Were wrong ones scanned and identified incorrectly in the pdf title? I need to get correct ones immediately if there is a different version. Otherwise it appears

membership is effective immediately without any other review.