

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON Monday, April 18, 2016, AT 6:00 p.m. IN THE Second Floor Conference Room.

THE PROPOSED AGENDA IS AS FOLLOWS:

Closed session as provided by Section 2.2-3712 of the Virginia Code

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR

BY Paige Rice

SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM – April 18, 2016

Council met in special session on this date with the following members present: Ms. Galvin, Ms. Szakos, Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Signer. Absent: Mr. Fenwick.

On motion by Ms. Szakos, seconded by Mr. Bellamy, Council voted, (Ayes: Ms. Szakos, Ms. Galvin, Mr. Signer, Mr. Bellamy; Noes: None; Absent: Mr. Fenwick), to meet in closed session for (1) Discussion and consideration of specific candidates for appointment to City boards and commissions, as authorized by Virginia Code sec. 2.2-3711 (A) (1); and, (2) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to actual litigation filed against the City of Charlottesville by Charlottesville Parking Center, and consultation with legal counsel for legal advice regarding the enforcement of Council's Meeting Procedures for repeated violations, and regarding the legality of certain restrictions on public participation during advertised public hearings, as authorized by Virginia Code sec. 2.2-3711 (A) (7).

On motion by Ms. Szakos, seconded by Mr. Bellamy, Council certified by the following vote (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Ms. Szakos, Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Signer; Noes: None; Absent: Mr. Fenwick), that to the best of each Council Member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered in the closed session.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS – April 18, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Council met in regular session on this date with the following members present: Ms. Galvin, Ms. Szakos, Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Signer. Absent: Mr. Fenwick.

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Galvin read a statement of appreciation for Mr. Tom Frederick for his years of service as Executive Director at Rivanna. Mr. Frederick thanked Council for the recognition.

Ms. Szakos announced the next public meeting for Ragged Mountain is April 27 at Trinity Church.

Ms. Szakos announced the Drewary Brown Community Bridge Builder award is being revived. A reception will be held April 25 at 6:30 at the Carver Recreation Center. Call 970-3115 for more information.

Mr. Signer read a reminder about the Mayor's Wyland Water Conservation challenge. Go to www.mywaterpledge.com to make a pledge, or go to charlottesville.org/waterconservation for more information.

Mr. Signer read a proclamation in honor of Arbor Day; Mr. Chris Gensic was present to accept on behalf of the City.

Mr. Bellamy asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. T. Lewis, a Charlottesville educator and pillar of the community, who recently passed.

Mr. Bellamy announced Earth Day and the Charlottesville EcoFair on Sunday, April 24 from 11am-5pm at the Pavilion on the Downtown Mall.

Mr. Bellamy read a proclamation for Fair Housing Month. Ms. Charlene Green was present to accept the proclamation.

Ms. Galvin recognized the passing of Mr. Bill Lucy, who was an active member of the Charlottesville community and asked for a moment of silence in his memory.

Ms. Riddervold gave a brief demonstration of the CityGreen project, which will go live this week. Go to www.charlottesville.org/aGreenCity to access the tool.

Mr. Signer announced an overflow room is available down the hallway in the NDS conference room.

Mr. Signer asked speakers who have signed up for the public hearing to direct their comments specifically about the blue ribbon commission.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

On motion by Ms. Szakos, seconded by Ms. Galvin, the following appointments were made: to the Retirement Commission, Mr. Al Elias; to the Airport Commission; Mr. George Benford to the Airport Commission. The Airport Commission appointment replaces the motion from March 21. (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Ms. Szakos, Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Signer; Noes: None; Absent: Mr. Fenwick.)

CITY MANAGER RESPONSE TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Mr. Jones provided a response to April 4 comments from the public. Residents may call 970-3895 to report sidewalk hazards. Also, a sidewalk list is available on the NDS website. Regarding the parking meter pilot, staff will review options for Council to consider for long-term parking for people who work downtown.

MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Mr. Signer read guidelines for Matters by the Public.

Ms. Jojo Robertson, Stand For the Silent Albemarle, presented a paper to Council about race, culture and conflict in America. She reviewed a history of Gen. Lee.

Ms. Judith Seay, 1206 Mowbray Pl., said Sen. Lewis was one of the protestors who crossed the bridge in Selma, Alabama, and he said the name of the bridge should not be changed, because it was a part of history. History is a good thing. She asked how many Councilors have lived here for 20 years.

Ms. Valerie Long, Williams Mullen, addressed Council about the proposed resolution to amend the zoning ordinance regarding cell phone tower antennas. She said an update of the ordinance is welcome and long-overdue. Please take a close look at the 40 foot limitation, which restricts installation of antennas that can be the least visually intrusive in the community.

Mr. John Richard Wingfield, Albemarle County, said no one alive today owns slaves or has been slaves. No one should be responsible for what has happened in the past. Presidents have cumulatively owned over 1,000 slaves. History should be preserved, not destroyed.

Ms. Theresa Woods, 29 Woodlake Dr., gave history on Gen. Lee. She said the current language of the Governor's bill still affords protection for historical statues. She asked that the statues remain standing.

Mr. Louis Shultz, 1809 E. Market St., said City Council elections are not scheduled in accordance with law.

Ms. Teresa Lam, Elton, Virginia, started a petition on change.org to keep the Robert E. Lee statue in the park. Removal of the statue would cause further division.

Mr. William McChesney, 1316 Grove Rd., said Council should also remove the three presidents on City Hall and several other historic statues if they remove the Lee statue. Council powers do not include removing historic monuments.

Mr. John Heyden, Westwood Rd., asked Mr. Bellamy to explain how he thinks institutional racism exists in Charlottesville. He said the City should release racial crime data. We have learned from history, and the issue of removing the statues is ridiculous. He said he would like to be appointed to the blue ribbon commission.

Mr. Steve Holmes, Orange, Virginia, said he favors keeping the Lee Statue in place. He gave a history of Gen. Lee and said he was a noble man.

Mr. Freeman Allan, Crozet, Virginia, said Gen. Lee was an honorable man. However, the statue still functions as a locus of lost-cause grief. The Lee statue unsettles many residents, and it does not reflect current values. It should be moved to an appropriate place and should not be at the symbolic heart of Charlottesville.

Mr. Elliott Harding, Albemarle Co., said he is here representing Friends of Cville Monuments to advocate erecting new statues, not tearing down others. He suggested erecting a statue of someone like Julian Bond. He described the goals of the group.

Mr. John Edwin Mason, 211 5th St., who teaches history at the University of Virginia, thanked Council for opening up what the commission can look like. Confederate memorials hide history instead of making it more visible. The history of Union fighters and African American soldiers is also not visible. This monument was erected to affirm white supremacy during the Jim Crow era.

Ms. Szakos clarified that Council is not approving the wireless franchise but sending it to the Planning Commission to examine.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Minutes for April 4**
- b. **APPROPRIATION: Department of Criminal Justice Byrne Special Fund Grant - \$9,991 (2nd reading)**

Justice Byrne Grant

- c. **APPROPRIATION: Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) - \$40,000 Appropriation of Program Income (2nd reading)**

HOME Appropriation

- d. **APPROPRIATION: University of Virginia Contribution to Reward and Transfer from Citywide Reserve - \$20,000 (2nd reading)**

UVA Reward Transfer

- e. **APPROPRIATION: \$200,000 to the Charlottesville Redevelopment & Housing Authority Marriott Proffer/Inn at Vinegar Hill and \$70,000 to the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund (2nd reading)**

CRHA Proffer / Vinegar Hill

- f. RESOLUTION: Initiate Zoning Text Amendment (consideration of changes to Telecommunications Ordinance)**

Telecommunications ZTA

- g. ORDINANCE: Lightower Fiber Networks II, LLC Telecommunications Franchise (2nd reading)**

Lightower Fiber Networks II, LLC Telecommunications Franchise

- h. ORDINANCE: YMCA Utility Right-of-Way Agreement (2nd reading)**

YMCA Utility Right-of-Way Agreement

- i. ORDINANCE: Underground Utility Right-of-Way Agreement Across City Yard (2nd reading)**

Underground Utility Right-of-Way Agreement Across City Yard

- j. ORDINANCE: New Permit to Authorize Operation of Valet Parking within Public Rights-of-Way (2nd reading)**

New Permit to Authorize Operation of Valet Parking within Public Rights-of-Way

- k. Buckingham Branch Grant Funding Resolution**

Buckingham Branch Grant Funding Resolution

On motion by Ms. Szakos, seconded by Ms. Galvin, the consent agenda passed. (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Ms. Szakos, Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Signer; Noes: None; Absent: Mr. Fenwick.)

RESOLUTION: POLICE CHIEF APPOINTMENT

Police Chief Appointment

Mr. Jones presented to Council on the recommendation of Chief Alfred Thomas as the Charlottesville Chief of Police. The appointment is scheduled to be effective May 23.

Mr. Bellamy moved the resolution; Ms. Szakos seconded the motion.

Ms. Szakos said she was impressed with Mr. Thomas during the interview process, and he is clearly a good addition to the City. Ms. Galvin welcomed Mr. Thomas to Charlottesville and praised him for his integrity and fairness. Mr. Signer said this is an exciting day for the City, and he is confident the City's Police Department will make great strides under Chief Thomas's

supervision. Mr. Bellamy said he is delighted Chief Thomas is joining the City's Police Department and he looks forward to working with him and supporting him.

Mr. Signer thanked Mr. Jones and staff for the work that went into this search.

The motion passed. (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Ms. Szakos, Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Signer; Noes: None; Absent: Mr. Fenwick.)

Chief Thomas thanked Council and invited his wife, Dorothy to join him at the dais. He said he is proud to lead and serve the Charlottesville Police Department.

REPORT: CUSTOMER SERVICE SYSTEM REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS UPDATE

Customer Service System Request For Proposals Update

Mr. Murphy presented to Council on the customer service system request for proposal (RFP). This is being presented to Council before it goes to procurement.

Ms. Szakos said she wants to highlight the intention of creating a record of institutional memory. She asked if there is a way to allow for the use of third party apps within the context of this proposal. Mr. Murphy said they are looking for a responsive bid that integrates all of those components or is a collaborative response to the RFP. Competitive applicants will work to satisfy all components of the RFP.

Ms. Galvin requested a system that would generate quarterly reports to see trends and get staff analysis. Mr. Murphy said the successful vendor will use this as a dashboard in the event we want to create a transparent interface. Ms. Galvin asked for the timeline. Mr. Murphy said the RFP will go out around May 1 with 30-60 days for responses and will likely be ready for implementation in October or November.

Ms. Signer thanked staff for their work on this, which is something incoming Councilors heard much about and have been eager to see. He wanted to ensure this system would be compatible with an open data system if Council adopted one in the years to come. He also asked if this could be designed to make the FOIA process more efficient. Mr. Murphy said the City is working to make data more open and available and have been working on outcome measures for some time.

Ms. Galvin said she and Ms. Szakos have also been looking at this over the years and is pleased we have gotten to this point.

Mr. Signer asked about price and staffing. Mr. Murphy said initial costs are lower than when a 3-1-1 system was originally presented to Council. Mr. Jones said it is not necessary to specify staffing as part of the RFP.

On motion by Ms. Szakos, seconded by Ms. Galvin, the recommendation for an RFP passed. (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Ms. Szakos, Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Signer; Noes: None; Absent: Mr. Fenwick.)

Council took a recess at 8:53 p.m. and resumed at 9:05 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING / RESOLUTION: BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON RACE, MONUMENTS AND PUBLIC SPACES

Blue Ribbon Commission on Confederate Memorials

On motion, the public hearing was opened.

Ms. Jean Hiatt, 1534 Rugby Ave., president of Preservation Piedmont, suggested including individuals who have broad experience in history and education, inventory existing work in the City related to the commission's goals, considering a Vinegar Hill park, and installing a monument reflecting African American history.

Ms. Anne McKeithan, 233 E. Jefferson St., representing a group of citizens who meet to consider how history is represented in Charlottesville, said they think more broadly about this. She urged Council to consider an open process that is not rushed.

Mr. Eric Middlefort, 233 E. Jefferson St., said he has been with the UVA history department since 1970. He said statues and monuments are interpretations of the past. He suggested adding historical context to existing statues.

Mr. Jim Hingeley, Graves St., said he thinks the statue is offensive and should be removed. He said Judge Clark personally removed a portrait of Patrick Henry from his courtroom because Black men and women have reason to find glorified Confederate images offensive.

Mr. David Silver, Ivy area resident, spoke in favor of removing the Lee statue. Putting up more statues of more great men would simply be a whitewashing of the past.

Mr. Emerson Stern, 1310 Florence Rd., said a smaller statue should be put in front of the Lee statue saying racism is bad.

Ms. Alice Gore, 115 Altamont Cir., said she supports removing the Lee and Jackson statues from public parks. They should be placed in a museum where they belong.

Ms. Connie Rosenbaum, 802 Hardy Dr., said she does not approve of the removal of the statue. They are there to reach children right from wrong, and money would be better spent on public housing or homelessness.

Ms. Susan Hathaway, Sandston, Virginia, said the City will have to spend a lot of money on lawsuits if they insist on tearing down or removing statues. It should not matter whether or

not someone is from Charlottesville for them to be honored. People from all area's voices should be heard.

Mr. Micah Lucas, Farmville, Virginia, said we are considering removing a teachable moment. It is necessary to know where we came from so we can move forward. He said a member of Council slapped the statue in the face to enflame onlookers.

Ms. Lauren Baker, 519 Lexington Ave., said history has informed her life. It helps us understand how we arrive at where we are today and our foundations. She urged Council to reconsider memorials through the blue ribbon commission.

Mr. Bill Weston, said his family is from Charlottesville. The blue ribbon commission would be speaking about totally irrelevant options.

Mr. Jim Respass, 1033 Sheridan Ave., said he was born and raised in Charlottesville and has been an active member of the McGuffey Arts Center for over 20 years. He said the Dialogue on Race has already commissioned a sculpture. He said Council should entertain a broad and open dialogue with as many points of view as possible and evolve at its own pace. He said he would be proud to serve on the commission.

Mr. George Wells, Madison, Virginia, said there is too much "erasescism" and racism. We are all Americans and should work together to find a solution. He suggested spending money to erect new monuments instead of tearing down or moving existing ones. This will further tear people apart.

Ms. Marketa Vest Hiller, 154 Buckingham Cir., read a letter for Gudrum Campbell, age 8, 408 Fairway Ave., who is a 3rd grader at Burnley Moran Elementary School, in support of removing the statue.

Ms. Jalane Schmidt, 2314 Fontaine Ave., Assoc. Prof. at UVA, said it is an injustice for Confederate monuments to dominate public spaces. She said over half of Charlottesville's residents were enslaved during the Civil War.

Ms. Shelley Stern, Belmont/Carlton neighborhood, said she supports removing the Lee Statue and renaming the Lee Park. The blue ribbon commission should also vote to remove all confederate symbols from our town. The City's website declares the Lee statue as heroic. She said there are other race issues we need to deal with in our community as well.

Ms. Alice Donsanville, Belmont resident, said she feels alienated by the Lee and Jackson statues. We should revise past decisions. There were no people of color at the Tom Tom Festival in Lee Park, and she believes these things are related.

Mr. Nicholas Eolsall, 1924 Thomson Rd., said he taught for many years at the UVA history department. There is a signage at a controversial war memorial in another part of the country explaining why it was not taken down and why it should stay as a part of history. You cannot confront the past if you destroy it.

Pastor Hodari Hamilton, First Baptist Church, said no change happens without authority stepping up for minorities. If we do not step up, we are not supporting diversity.

Mr. Scott Peyton said our shared historical narrative needs to be told. He supports keeping the statue in place for what it can teach everyone, both good and bad.

Ms. Rebecca Quinn, 104 4th St., said the purpose of the public hearing is supposed to be about the commission. She said Harvard decided to keep the Woodrow Wilson name when considering the balance of his accomplishments. She asked that the commission strive for balance as well. She asked Council to specify the number of commissioners and said Councilors should be able to each make appointments without having to reach consensus. She said there should not be a limited number of options for the commissioners to explore. She asked Council not to make a decision tonight.

Ms. Jennifer Rubenstein, Belmont, said she was distressed that the Charlottesville Dogwood Festival featured Confederate paraphernalia. The City should refrain from funding or endorsing a carnival that uses this sort of imagery, and she asked Council to pursue this matter with the Dogwood Festival.

Ms. Idette Charlie, 829 Mallside Forest Ct., said she wants the Lee and Jackson statues removed. She would like to see imaging that would be more reflective of our vales today.

Mr. Uriah Hills, 829 Mallside Forest Ct., said he supports removal of the Lee statue. The Lee Park should not bear the name either.

Mr. Quinton Harrell, 800 Preston Ave., said he supports removing the statue. The cost of removal and opportunity costs associated with this decision should be considered, but we should keep in mind how people feel about various historic figures. The symbolism is psychological, and it should be removed.

Mr. John Heyden, Westwood Rd., said the existing petitions are ten to one for keeping the statue.

Mr. Mason Pickett, Glenwood Station, said he agreed that history should not be taken down. He said education is important.

Mr. William Houchens, Solomon Rd., said he is a Charlottesville native. He said he was in the classroom when the first Black teacher taught at Lane High School. There is pain in history and memories. He said we cannot remove guilt.

The public hearing was closed. Mr. Signer said there will be another chance to speak during the second Matters by the Public.

Mr. Signer introduced the draft resolution for the blue ribbon commission. Tonight, Council will decide if they should go into a further work session with staff on April 28. Council will vote on the actual formation of a commission at their next Council meeting.

Mr. Bellamy read a statement about his position on the statues, including offensive comments he has received after taking a stand on this issue. History will continue to be taught in schools. This is our City's opportunity to change the narrative and be inclusive. He asked Council to include a recommendation within 60 days regarding memorials, changing the name of Lee Park, and possibly erecting new memorials, and working with current community partners and organizations to provide Council with a recommendation of what to do with those items.

Ms. Szakos offered an amendment to the resolution. The charge of the commission has grown significantly since it was brought up at a previous meeting. Much of the work list in the memo has already been assigned or is already being done in the community. She said we should honor our original commitment of 60 days to address the statues but allocate a longer period for consideration of race and public space within the City. She proposed that there be seven members appointed by May 16, and at least one further public meeting to gather public comment.

She offered an amendment to the resolution:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Council charges the blue ribbon commission with specific deliverables on the following timetable:

By November 1, and after robust opportunities to gather public comment, the Commission will:

- Evaluate and advise Council on the full range of options before us regarding disposition of the two large Confederate Monuments in Lee and Jackson parks, including moving the memorials to a museum or historical site, changing their context to reflect current values, or adding new memorials;
- Make a recommendation as to the course of action Council should take;
- Estimate the costs involved and any revenue that might be anticipated from such action, and develop a fundraising strategy for any relocation effort.
- Determine appropriate historical locations where memorials might be moved, if appropriate; and
- Identify and communicate with other efforts underway relating to its mission;
- Make a recommendation to Council for how best to complement the work of those groups in telling the full story of Charlottesville's history of race relations and changing the City's narrative through our public spaces, either through a policy or a specific plan to implement the recommendations;
- Specify any recommendations involving the erection of additional monuments, memorials or historical markers, and recommend a plan for funding them.

Ms. Galvin gave a summary of her background and said symbols do matter. She said she wishes we had inspiring sculptures to inspire future generations. The comments made tonight substantiate the need for a blue ribbon commission. She said she would like the commission to examine the following: 1) What new insights would we gain by disassembling these artifacts

from the past? 2) How do we decide which of our historic offenses warrant redress and removal? Does it apply to institutions, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe? 3) By removing these relics, will we divert resources from solving the pressing problems of today, many of which are rooted in our racist past? We need to invest in preserving the right memorials as well as removing the bad memorials. 4) Why is this happening now, when more answers may be available in just a few months? 5) How should we now regard the donor of these monuments, Mr. Paul Goodloe McIntire, who was second only to Jefferson in his generosity of giving to the City of Charlottesville? 6) Is it better to have more history, not less? Or is better to edit out what we do not like at any given moment in history, even though it is constantly evolving and unfolding. We need a commission that will not have predetermined views and will consider all sides.

Ms. Galvin requested including a second WHEREAS, stating “Council created the Human Rights Commission in 2013 to address issues of discrimination and carry on the work of the Dialogue on Race.”

Ms. Galvin said she agrees that the first “be it further resolved” should say, “including, but not limited to.” She requested adding research to the list of charges. She said there should be seven commission members, including one each from the Human Rights Commission and PLACE so the work of the blue ribbon commission can be carried on by standing advisory groups once their work is done.

Mr. Signer said he cannot agree with putting the monuments at the front of the process and then having it bifurcated. The process and approach needs to be holistic from the beginning. He said we could have brilliance coming out of this process, and although he respects where Ms. Szakos and Mr. Bellamy are coming from, he cannot agree to this. He clarified that his position has evolved since the previous Council discussion.

Mr. Bellamy asked about a time line. Mr. Signer laid out a general time line, with feedback and advice expected around November 1.

Ms. Szakos said staff has said 60 days is also doable for direction on the monuments. Mr. Jones said developing recommendations on a broader approach would take more time.

Ms. Galvin said she agrees that we need to do this in a much more comprehensive way. She said she hopes the work of the commission would be done by November.

Mr. Bellamy said addressing the Lee and Jackson statues can be looked at as the first phase, and further community conversations can continue from there. Ms. Szakos said there is a difference between doing current harm and figuring out how we can do further good.

Mr. Signer said he has spoken to members of the African American community who do not want the statues removed. Mr. Bellamy said those same people are telling him differently.

Mr. Signer said we should also include the possibility of naming new projects that are already being implemented, such as bridges and buildings.

Ms. Szakos said we should make sure we do not use talk as an excuse for not moving; there is urgency for now. Mr. Signer said we do not want this to linger on, and we are looking at a time frame of no more than five months.

Council moved for ten more minutes of discussion.

Mr. Signer said he senses a push for haste. Ms. Szakos said she wants a decision and does not want to put this off for months.

Ms. Szakos read a statement on why she believed the statues should be moved to a more appropriate location where they will not serve to continue to disenfranchise and disrespect her neighbors.

Ms. Galvin proposed Council move forward with a work session to get staff's input on the commission proposal. She said the work of the group should be completed within six months of the first meeting.

Mr. Signer said this is a very time-consuming issue, and a commission can dedicate the necessary time to come up with options and recommendations. He would be comfortable with setting a November 1 deadline in theory but prefers getting advice from staff before committing to this deadline. Ms. Szakos said we should not add more and more things to the commission so that they can never complete their job.

Council moved for 10 more minutes of discussion.

Ms. Galvin said if the group realizes there is more to do, they can get an extension to continue to function, but the list that is here should be completed by November 1.

Mr. Signer asked if anyone wanted to add anything other than "additional naming opportunities" to the resolution. Ms. Galvin asked that the resolution use "commissioning" instead of "designing" new memorials. There needs to be communication on providing a further narrative for the Vinegar Hill community. The commission should be given the opportunity to come up with more ideas.

Ms. Szakos said she supports a November 1 deadline.

Council agreed to move forward with a work session on April 28. Ms. Szakos asked that Council not move backwards at the work session. Mr. Signer said he would not agree to restricting freedom of thought.

Ms. Galvin said she supports going forward with a discussion and vote at the May 2 meeting. Ms. Szakos recommended Mr. Signer and Mr. Bellamy work with the City Manager to get direction and hold a work session only if that cannot be achieved. Mr. Jones said a work session would be helpful for staff to be able to get direction.

Ms. Galvin asked staff to provide a model resolution for the work session based on tonight's conversation. Mr. Signer asked if Council was interested in an expert presentation. Ms. Szakos said she would rather the City work on their own model. Mr. Bellamy agreed that we should work this out on our own.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Galvin asked about maintenance issues with housing authority properties. Mr. Jones said the housing authority has been provided with names of contractors and are working to understand the extent of the issues.

MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Ms. Rebecca Quinn, 104 4th St., said no one will want to participate in the blue ribbon commission if you are telling them exactly what to look at. If you already have a conclusion in mind, just give staff the direction. It should be called a committee or work group; it is not a blue ribbon commission.

Ms. Nikuyah Walker, 503 Druid Ave., said Council is doing fear-based thinking and following White supremacist thought. White people do not allow things that produce fear in them.

Mr. William Houchens, Charlottesville, said he is concerned about the predisposition of Council. The commission should be appointed by someone else who does not already have an opinion. Mr. Bellamy is not bringing people together. Racism is coming in both directions.

Mr. Uriah Hills, 829 Mallside Forest Ct., said he supports Mr. Bellamy's stand. Race issues have changed, but not by people who have wanted to keep the status quo. We need to improve upon what has been done. You cannot put everything together and work on it at the same time. He said statues are in the public and are more pressing than other issues.

Mr. Mason Pickett, Charlottesville, thanked Ms. Galvin for standing firm. He said this process should not be rushed.

Ms. Simona Holloway Warren, 313 West Main, said the commission should include a variety of members across age, race, and country of origin for the best outcome for our community.

Ms. Maeve Curtain, UVA Liaison, invited Council to attend UVA Council's panel and roundtable discussion on Civil and Human Rights in Charlottesville April 26 from 6:30-8:00 at the Newcomb Ballroom. Also, UVA will hold a farmer's market from 11-3 on Sunday.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 a.m.