

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

Director of Strategic Planning

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HISTORIC RESOURCES TASK FORCE **SEPTEMBER 17, 1998 -- 4:00 P.M.** **MICHIE ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM**

AGENDA

1. Approval of August 12, 1998 Minutes
2. Status Report on Projects
3. Preparation for City Council Presentation
4. Other Business

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING DATE FROM 16TH TO 17TH

NOTE: *You can park in the Market Street Parking Garage. Bring your ticket into the office with you to be stamped for two-hours free.*

**HISTORIC RESOURCES TASK FORCE
AUGUST 12, 1998 -- 4:00 P.M.
MICHIE ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT:

Mr. Coy Barefoot
Mr. Fred Hebllich
Ms. Lynne Eley
Mr. Mark Beliles
Mr. Ben Ford
Ms. Florence Bryant
Ms. Ingrid Smyer-Kelly
Ms. Bobbye Cochran
Ms. Mary Hill Caperton

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Satyendra Singh Huja

Mr. Barefoot opened the meeting with the discussion of the State Historic Markers. He indicated that he sent the copy for the two markers (First Baptist Church and Jack Jouett's Ride) to the State. The State Board is going to meet on September 16, 1998 and the Markers could be installed by the end of November. There was also a discussion of an additional State Marker for Stone Tavern's Associated with Lewis and Clark, Jefferson and Lafayette. This submission will be sent so that it can be considered for the December meeting of the State Board.

There was a discussion of local historic markers. Five sites have been selected which are: Vinegar Hill, Three Notch Road (two signs), Court Square; Jessie Scott House and the University Corner.

Mr. Barefoot indicated that signs placed in Lee Park as a civil war marker, is very attractive and local markers can be similar. These signs cost a little more than \$1,000. Mr. Huja will check the City's procurement process. The Committee will try to raise private funds for at least three of these signs and will request City funds for two signs.

Ms. Eley has been preparing historic exhibits for City Hall, Union Station and Tonsler Park. She is first working on the City Hall Exhibit. This exhibit may cost anywhere from \$3,000 or more.

Mr. Hebllich has been in contact with Mr. Mark Giles of Virginia National Bank for private donations to print historic booklets of Charlottesville. He has requested \$7,500 from them. He thinks that 10,000 copies could be printed. Some of those will have to be given to the donor. Mr. Hebllich will be the Chair for this project and work with the Historical Society.

Ms. Smyer-Kelly suggested that the Committee could keep selling these booklets and make some money.

Mr. Barefoot bought up the issue of protection of the house on 1212 Wertland Street which is associated with Georgia Okeefe. Mr. Huja indicated that he is working with the developers to save this house even though it is not under local historic control. He is hopeful the house can be saved.

Ms. Caperton indicated that she would like to save two historic contributing houses on West Main Street on the same block.

Mr. Barefoot indicated that he has been in contact with the schools about local historic education and has received a letter from the School Board indicating that they will look into the matter. He also indicated that we need to start thinking of Phase Three of the Committee's effort as the Committee will be presenting the report to City Council in October.

The next meeting will be September 17, 1998 at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

From: Coy Barefoot
To: Members of the Task Force
Re: August Update
Date: August 12, 1998

Hope everyone is having a great summer. Hard to believe Autumn is just around the corner. We are scheduled to report back to Council in October with an update about our progress. And remember, the Historical Society will be sponsoring the Spirit Walk Tours around Halloween, and they could always use some willing volunteers— please ask Lynn Ely how you can help.

Here's a quick update about what's going with Phase II of the Task Force. You will recall that we presented our list of suggestions to Council on May 18. At our next regular meeting on June 10, we selected our priority projects and have focused on these throughout the summer:

1. **State Historic Markers-** (the big black and silver aluminum markers) The text of the two markers (First Baptist, West Main and Jack Jouett's Ride) having been written and approved by the Historical Society, I overnighted the official request to Richmond earlier this summer. Just last week I received a reply from Katherine Long, director of the program, that our markers were headed to a final editorial meeting on Monday, August 17— then on to the Board meeting in Roanoke on September 16. After that the markers will be ordered from the foundry, then sent on to our local VDOT office, who will work with us to install the two signs. We should likely see them go up before Thanksgiving. We will of course schedule two unveiling ceremonies and send out press releases.

During our discussion of local markers, the Old Stone Tavern's connection to Lewis and Clark, and Lafayette came up, and Mr. Huja asked that we submit a text for that site as a state historic marker. Fred Hebllich prepared a text, which is now with Lynn at the Historical Society. When that is completed we will send it to Richmond (since that will not make their current deadlines, we will have it in by September 1 for their December Board meeting— and should expect that to go up in the Winter).

Since Council gave tacit approval to our suggestion of two of these state markers each year, I suggest we be thinking about two other candidates to submit to Richmond in the Spring of '99.

2. Local Marker Program- At our meeting on July 9 we convened on Vinegar Hill just outside the Omni (but not for long since it was so hot!), and selected five sites to begin our local historical marker program:

1. Vinegar Hill- to recognize the Hill's role in the character of Downtown, the story of how it got its name, and the razing of the African-American neighborhood there in the 1960s. Marker to be installed in the planters between the Ice Park and the Omni.
2. Three Notch'd Road- to recognize the colony road where Charlottesville was located. Markers to be installed on the Mall near the Fountain as well as on West Main Street.
3. Court Square- marker to educate visitors about the history of the courthouse, court days, the founding of Charlottesville, etc. Marker to be installed in front of the courthouse.
4. Jessie Scott House (Jefferson National Bank Building on the Mall, now Wachovia)- a wall-mounted marker to commemorate the family and the original homesite
5. The UVA Corner- to recognize the historic commercial district in the University neighborhood.

I hope everyone has had a chance to take a look at the Civil War marker recently installed in Lee Park— that is the style and size we are after. I checked with the folks who erected that marker and got some estimates, which I will share at the August 12 meeting.

The next step would be to get a few more estimates (Mr. Huja is looking in to how this should best be handled), and contract the work. I suggest we solicit private funds for all the markers except the two Three Notch'd Road markers. It would not be out of line to ask the City to contribute funds for those two, especially considering how reasonable the cost appears to be.

I have already gotten commitment from one private source for one marker, and will prepare proposals to solicit support elsewhere.

Ideally, I'd like to see the markers go up in time for the holiday season.

3. Historic Exhibits- Three locations have been selected to install historic exhibits: the City Hall foyer, the renovated train station, and the Tonsler Park Recreation Center. Each site will have a slightly different focus: City Hall with basic information (Lord Albemarle, Queen Charlotte, three Notch'd Road, the University, etc.), the Union Station (basic information plus a discussion of the history of the railroads, West Main Street), Tonsler Park (Benjamin Tonsler, African-American heritage).

Lynn Ely has been busy preparing these exhibits: focusing first on City Hall, and next on Tonsler, the on the train station when work there is completed.

Lynn recently got estimates from Neal Gropen on what the City Hall exhibit would cost- which we shall discuss at the August 12 meeting.

Other business

- the historic booklet
- the Georgia O'Keefe house?
- the presentation to the school board
- Phase 3?

Last Thoughts

I want to thank everyone for all the work they've put in over the summer. This is a difficult time of year to focus on things other than our families and our jobs, so your energy and time has been appreciated.

The next few months are going to be very exciting. After eight months, it's starting to look like some of our ideas are actually going to happen. We have focused on the historic marker program because that is the fastest, most direct, and most visible way to share Charlottesville's history with locals and visitors. We are fortunate to have the Council and staff behind us, and I'm looking forward to the first unveiling!

Thanks again to all of you!

coy

971-6745

barefoot@cstone.net

June 30, 1998

Mr. Coy Barefoot
716 McIntire Road
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

Dear Mr. Barefoot:

Thank you for your excellent presentation to our Board. You made some wonderful suggestions and I am hopeful that we will be able to use your report to assist our teachers in teaching history and social sciences. Arletta Dimberg, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, has a copy of your report and I'm sure she will make it available to schools for their consideration and use.

Thank you again for taking time to be with us, and for the excellent work that you and the task force have done with regard to historical resources.

Sincerely,



William C. Symons, Jr., Ed.D.
Division Superintendent

WCSjr:jmh

~~cc:~~ Ms. Arletta Dimberg (Ardee, I hope you will take a close look at Mr. Barefoot's report and determine how best we can make this information available to our staff. Please let me know if I can help in any way.)