

HISTORIC RESOURCE TASK FORCE  
APRIL 14, 1999

Present:

Coy Barefoot  
Winston Churchill Gooding  
Ingred Smyer Kelley  
Mark Baliles  
James Eddins  
Mary Hill Capperton  
Bobbye Cochran

Also Present:

Satyendra Huja  
Jennie Keller  
Lynne Ely (Albemarle County Historical Society)  
Helena Devereux (Preservation, Piedmont)  
Garrett Smith  
Aubrey Watts  
Rachel Garfield  
Doug Gilpin (Preservation Alliance)

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Coy Barefoot indicated that June 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for state historic review of markers by the state board. Mr. Garrett Smith indicated that his group is proceeding with a guide to Charlottesville. They will start with the University area and the downtown area.

Mr. Huja indicated that City Council has budgeted \$300,000 for Court Square area and that the city has also applied for \$800,000 to the state of Virginia under T-21 grant program. Staff will prepare RFP for master plan and will have it out by the middle of May. Consultants will have thirty days to respond to RFP. It is hoped that a study can start in July when the money will be available. This process will involve a committee which will include members from the Historic Task Force.

Ms. Ely indicated that she is starting to prepare historic exhibits for the train station.

Mr. Barefoot introduced the topic of the relationship between historic preservation and economic development. Ms. Devereux indicated that her group consists of area professionals and citizens from the Charlottesville region that are interested in the use

and protection of historic resources and they are a watchdog group to protect endangered properties. Ms. Jennie Keller indicated that we need to be pro-active and articulate historic values of the communities. She indicated that we need to be concerned about the whole fabric instead of just individual structures. She also indicated that the preservation community needs to be interested in neighborhood issues. Ingrid Smythe-Kelly indicated that we need gift shops and restaurants around Court Square. Other members present indicated that we need to respect that Court Square is a working legal community and not just a tourist attraction. We need to be concerned about timing of tours, issues of litter and the old jail in the Court Square area.

Mr. Aubrey Watts indicated that an historic designation is an important tool and we need to expand community awareness of its history and build a critical mass of support from community residents, property owners, and businesses. He indicated that the tourist industry requires better maps and information which could be an important marketing tool. He also indicated that a lack of publicity for historic tours and that there needs to be a better signage system. He indicated that we need to maintain the character and scale of the historic community and involve the public in this process. He also gave some examples of his efforts to use historic resources in other communities. He indicated that he fully realizes the importance of historic preservation as part of the economic development.

Ms. Capperton inquired about the status of the federal building on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. She also emphasized the importance of outreach to the community.

Mr. Doug Gilpin felt that there needs to be better signage for tourists and overhead utility lines need to be dealt with.

Ms. Ely indicated that as part of architectural week there will be panel discussions between board of architecture members and developers in mid-April.

Mr. Huja indicated that there needs to be recognition of owners and developers who do good historic preservation.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15. The next meeting will be May 12, 1999.