

**HISTORIC RESOURCES TASK FORCE  
November 10, 1999 – 3:30 P.M.  
MICHIE ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM**

- 1. Approval of Minutes**
- 2. New State and Local Markers for year 2000**
- 3. Status of Court Square Project**
- 4. Status Reports**
- 5. Other Business**

**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 RESOURCE TASK FORCE  
October 13, 1999

MINUTES

**Present:**

**Ingred Smyer Kelley**  
**Winston Churchill Gooding**  
**Jim Eddins**  
**Mark Beliles**  
**Francis Fife**  
**Ben Ford**

**Also Present:**

**Satyendra Singh Huja**

The meeting began at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Beliles chaired the meeting and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. It was moved by Mr. Fife and second by Mr. Eddins, and unanimously approved.

Mr. Huja gave a report on two State Historic Markers for 1999, he stated that he has met twice with VDOT representatives. They would not accept the Three Knotched Road sign near the fountain, but would accept a sign at the eastern end of the mall where it is visible to people in vehicles as well as pedestrians. VDOT also had an objection to the location of the sign for Stone Tavern; they would accept the sign in the planter so that it would be more visible. In both cases the City will have to agree to put in the poles or the signs. After some discussion many members felt that these were acceptable locations. The opening ceremony for these signs will be scheduled on December 8th at 3:30 or December 15th at 12:00.

The new State Historic markers for the year 2000 will be for Woolen Mills and The Charlottesville General Hospital.

For 1999 two local markers are designated for First Baptist Church on West Main Street and Mt. Zion Church on Ridge Street. Two local markers for the year 2000 will be Vinegar Hill and the University Corner. Mr. Beliles will work on the text for all of these markers and contact the appropriate people.

Mr. Huja informed the task force that the contract with the consultants for the Court Square improvements is being finalized. It will be coordinated with the court needs study and parking study.

Mr. Eddins indicated that he has attended meetings for The Historic Resources Task Force for the central region. He is working on signs for recognition of houses. He also felt that he should take a look at the City's preservation plan.

Mr. Ford stated that there are matching grants available for certified local governments. The City of Charlottesville is one of the certified local governments. Mr. Ford also indicated that he would work on archaeological projects, working towards public information programs, and making people aware of archaeological concerns. He would also do research on canals.

Mr. Fife indicated that Mr. Howard Newland is very knowledgeable about highways and bridges and that he will work with him. He also talked about bridges and walking trails.

Mr. Beliles stated that the historical booklet text is being finalized and will be presented for comments. He also distributed posters for the Governor Jefferson's Thanksgiving celebration and welcomed comments from the task force. He indicated that a Governor's Ball would be held on November 12, 1999.

Ms. Ingrid Smiley Kelley indicated that there should be a clearinghouse for historical activities in the City. It was indicated that the Historical Society tries to do that.

There was a discussion of a task force presentation to the City Council. Mr. Beliles and Mr. Wooten will meet with Mr. Huja to work out the details.

There was a question as to whether the City is funding an additional historic booklet being done at the University. Mr. Huja will find out the background on this topic.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45. The next meeting will be November 10, 1999.

Mr. Satyendra Singh Huja  
Director of Strategic Planning



## CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

### Director of Strategic Planning

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## **HISTORIC RESOURCES TASK FORCE NOVEMBER 18, 1998 -- 4:00 P.M. MICHIE ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM**

### **AGENDA**

1. Approval of October 7, 1998 Minutes
2. Report & City Council Presentation and Feedback
3. Projects for Next Phase
4. Historic Court Square Proposal
5. Other Business

**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  
OCTOBER 7, 1998 -- 4:00 P.M.  
MICHIE ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PRESENT:**

Mr. Coy Barefoot  
Ms. Florence Bryant  
Ms. Ingrid Smyer-Kelly  
Mr. Mark Beliles  
Ms. Bobbye Cochran  
Ms. Mary Hill Caperton

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Satyendra Singh Huja

Mr. Barefoot indicated that he will be presenting the task force six-months report to City Council on November 2, 1998 along with a slide show. The report will deal with the following:

1. State Historic Markers dealing with Jack Jouett Ride and the First Baptist Church on West Main Street.
2. Four local Historic Markers at Albemarle County Courthouse, Three Notch Road, Vinegar Hill and the Corner. The one at the Jefferson National Bank Building (Wachovia) will be done in the next round due to construction. The budget for these will be \$4,000, \$2,000 to be requested from the City and \$2,000 to be raised privately.
3. Historic Booklet. The committee is meeting with the Albemarle County Historical Society members to develop this booklet. Mr. Heblich is still looking for an alternate source of funds as the previous group did not work out.
4. Historic Exhibits. Three exhibits are proposed, one in the lobby of City Hall, one at Union Station and one at the Tonsler Park Center. We will request \$2,000 from the City and will raise the remaining funds privately. Mrs. Kelly inquired as to whether there has been a survey of impacts of exhibits.

Mr. Huja indicated that he has received two bids for the local signs and the lowest bid will be accepted. He also indicated that we are waiting for permission from the judge to put signs on the Courthouse property.

Mr. Barefoot indicated that we need to think about the next phase of projects.

Mr. Huja suggested that the task force review its original list of projects at the next meeting.

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

**Phase II Report**  
from the  
**Charlottesville Task Force on Historic Resources**  
to the members of Charlottesville City Council  
Monday, November 2, 1998

**Background**

The proposal for a group of citizens to investigate and suggest ways the City might preserve and promote its rich heritage was discussed by Council at their meeting on Monday, November 10, 1997. During the weeks that followed, Mayor Kay Slaughter appointed what became a 13-member Task Force on Historic Resources, which began meeting monthly in January 1998. On Monday, May 18, 1998, the Task Force presented its recommendations to Council in a Phase I Report.

Encouraged by the work of the Task Force, City Council unanimously agreed to reappoint the group for a year— asking that they pursue some of the initiatives that were suggested. Council also asked that the Task Force report back in the Fall, and give a Phase II report about work in progress.

This Phase II report communicates to Council the work the Task Force has focused on throughout the summer, since our first report in May.

**Phase II Overview**

At the regular monthly meeting of the Task Force on June 10, there was a discussion of priorities for Phase II. The group agreed to focus on the following initiatives, which are discussed in more detail beginning on Page 2.

- **State Historic Markers:** per Council's approval to support the erection of two state markers a year, the group agreed that the '98 markers would commemorate the First Baptist Church on West Main Street and Jack Jouett's Revolutionary War era ride.
- **Local Historic Markers:** to recognize sites of local historical significance, the Task Force pursued the design and placement of a number of local markers.
- **Historic Booklet:** in conjunction with the Albemarle County Historical Society, the Task Force has been working to fund and write a first-rate historic guide book to the City.
- **Historical Exhibits:** the Task Force has been working up the plans to design and install three historic exhibits: in the foyer of City Hall, at the Tonsler Recreation Center, and in the new Union Train Station.

**Phase III Preview**

During the next phase of our work— November '98 to May '99— the Task Force plans to follow through and bring to fruition the above initiatives, as well as to focus on a few new priorities. We will be back before Council with a Phase III report in May.

**State Historic Markers**

The State Department of Historic Resources oversees a state-wide historic marker program that recognizes persons, sites, and events of state or national significance. In the Spring of '98 the Task Force submitted approval for two markers to be erected here in Charlottesville: one at the First Baptist Church on West Main Street and another in Court Square to commemorate the ride of Jack Jouett (the text for both is included below).

At its meeting on September 16 of this year, the State Board of Historic Resources approved our two submission for historic markers. The sites for both markers have been selected and marked with wood stakes. We are now finalizing the plans with a VDOT representative (VDOT is responsible for the installation of the markers), and are hoping to have the markers ready for a holiday time unveiling in late December.

During Phase III of our work, we will be selecting two state markers to submit for next year. One suggestion that has received some favor is a marker to recognize the site of the Old Stone Tavern, which is significant for three primary reasons: where Thomas Jefferson met Lafayette during his visit of 1825; where plans for the founding of what would become the University of Virginia were first made; and it is where Lewis and Clark returned to after traveling west. We are hopeful that Council will once again approve the \$1,100 per marker cost for two more markers next year.

***Jack Jouett's Ride***

*On June 4, 1781 John "Jack" Jouett, Jr. arrived at the Albemarle County Courthouse to warn the Virginia legislature of approaching British troops. The colonial government, under then Governor Thomas Jefferson, had retreated from Richmond to reconvene in Charlottesville because of the threat of British invasion during the Revolutionary War. Jouett had spotted Colonel Banastre Tarleton and his 180 dragoons and 70 mounted cavalry 40 miles away at Cuckoo Tavern, and rode through the night to reach this spot by dawn. Thanks to Jouett's warning, the legislature scattered before the oncoming British, although seven members were captured. Jouett's heroic ride was recognized by the Virginia General Assembly, which awarded him a sword and pair of pistols. If not for Jouett's efforts, the capture of Jefferson and the legislature may have profoundly affected the outcome of the War for Independence.*

***First Baptist Church, West Main Street***

*The Charlottesville African Church was organized in 1864. Four years later it brought the Delevan building, built in 1820 by gen. John H. Cocke, and at one time used as a temperance hotel for University of Virginia students. It became part of the Charlottesville General Hospital and sheltered soldiers during the Civil War. The church members laid the cornerstone for a new building in 1877 on the Delevan site, and the First Baptist Church, West Main Street, was completed in 1883. This building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*

## Phase II Report of the Task Force on Historic Resources— page 3

### **Local Historic Markers**

To commemorate persons, sites, or events of local historic significance, the Task Force agreed to erect local markers throughout the City. After discussing a long list of possible subjects with which to begin, we chose the following for our first few local markers:

- The Albemarle County Courthouse- to recognize the founding of Albemarle County, Charlottesville, and the central place that Court Square held in the life of the colonial community
- The Three Notch'd Road- a marker on the Downtown mall to recognize the historic colonial road and Native America trail that led settlers to the area
- Vinegar Hill- a marker between the Omni and the Ice Park to discuss how Vinegar Hill got its name and its place in the history of the African-American community
- The Corner- a marker at the Corner to recognize its place as the focal point of the history of the University community

**Design-** the Task Force agreed that the Civil War Trails marker recently installed in Lee Park (part of a massive state-wide program to commemorate Civil War sites) was the kind of marker we had in mind for our local history program. With that in mind, we took bids on the marker and selected a company to work with. The cost for each will be \$XXX—\$XXX for the marker and installation, \$XXX for the text/photo insert.

We are in the process now of finalizing the text for these local historic markers, as well some sources for private funding. We have already received a commitment of private funding for one marker, and plan to solicit more. Private donors will receive permanent recognition on the marker itself.

**Request funding at this point?**



**Historic Booklet**

After surveying a stack of historic guidebooks and pamphlets from throughout Virginia and elsewhere, the Task Force selected a Culpepper, Virginia guidebook as an excellent model to follow in designing one for Charlottesville.

A sub-committee from the Historic Task Force began meeting in September with members of the Publications Committee of the Albemarle County Historical Society. We are now in the process of writing the guidebook for Charlottesville.

We have estimated that 7,500 copies could be produced for about \$10,000— the distribution of which will be handled by the Historical Society.

We had been led to believe throughout the summer that the First Virginia Bank would like to sponsor the Charlottesville guidebook. But in September they declined any involvement. We are investigating other funding sources now, and foresee making the guidebook available during the first part of next year.

**funding request?**

## **Phase II Report of the Task Force on Historic Resources— page 5**

### **Historic Exhibits**

The Task Force has agreed on three sites for historic exhibits: City Hall, Union Station, and the Tonsler Park Recreation Center.

The exhibits in the City Hall foyer and at Union Station will be very similar: highlighting basic historical information about the City: Lord Albemarle, Queen Charlotte, Three Notch'd Road, University of Virginia, etc.

The Tonsler Recreation Center exhibit will focus on Benjamin Tonsler and a history of Charlottesville's African-American history. All three exhibits are in the process of being designed now, and we are reviewing cost and bid prices. We are hoping to erect the City Hall and Train Station exhibits by the end of December. The Tonsler exhibit will likely go up during sometime during the Winter months as well.

**funding request????**

### **Task Force Members**

Coy Barefoot

Mark Beliles

Daniel Bluestone

Florence Bryant

Mary Hill Caperton

Bobbye Cochran

Jim Eddins

Lynne Ely

Francis Fife

Benjamin Ford

Fred Heblich

Ingrid Smyer-Kelly

Jim Wootton

Staff: Satyendra Huja

CITY OF  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA  
MEMO



TO: Historic Resources Task Force

FROM: Satyendra Singh Huja, Director of Strategic Planning *S. S. H.*

DATE: October 30, 1998

RE: **Historic Court Square Proposal**

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this memorandum is to briefly share with you an idea for enhancement of the Historic Court Square Area as a destination for tourists and celebration of our history. Mr. Mark Beliles initially planted the seed for possible improvements to the Court Square Area with a suggestion to close Park Street between High and Jefferson Street. In later meetings with Meredith Richards, Coy Barefoot and Gary O'Connell, we have expanded this idea as shown on the attached map.

**II. BASIC CONCEPT**

The proposal is to create an identifiable Historic Court Square area as a destination for tourists and community people by enhancing the physical environment as well as creating cultural programs and community involvement. Initially this could include 4th, 5th, 6th, Park and Jefferson Streets between High Street and Market Street. Later on it could be expanded further to the Lee Park area. It could include the following elements:

- Brick Sidewalks
- Different Color Pavement
- Historic Lighting
- Crosswalks of different material
- Banners & flags
- Replica of historic artifacts (e.g. stockade, slave block, etc.)
- Historic Markers
- Identification of original plat
- Historic information through site and sound
- Historic Displays
- Live representation of dress and costumes
- Music and other cultural festivities
- Other

**III. PRELIMINARY PLAN OF ACTION**

- Discussion by Historic Resources Task Force
- Community Charrette to involve a variety of people including property owners, residents, tourism council, historical society and interested parties. The purpose of the Charrette will be to get community wide input and support.

Historic Resources Task Force  
RE; Historic Court Square Proposal  
October 30, 1998  
Page Two

- Development of a plan and design and cost estimates
- Seeking funding for implementation
- Organizing programmatic and ongoing activities.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

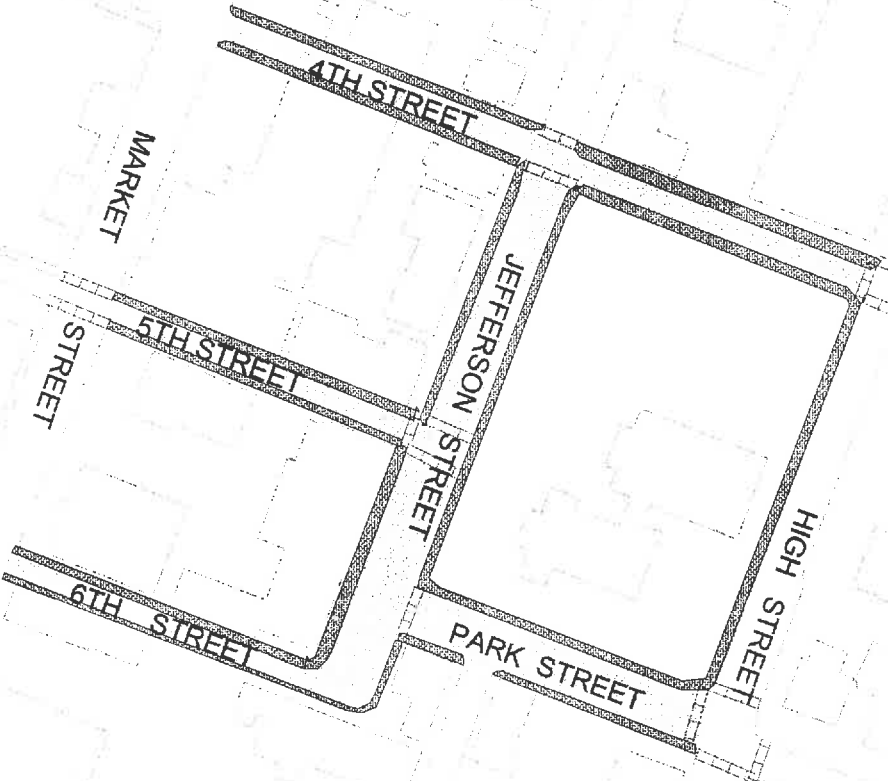
This is an exciting opportunity. I hope that the task force will take charge and proceed to work on this idea.

SSH:sdp

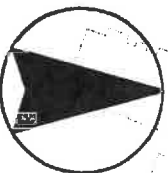
Attachments

cc: City Council  
Gary O'Connell  
Ron Higgins  
Tarpley Vest  
Mike Fontaine  
Judith Mueller  
Joan Fenton (Chair of BAR)  
Nancy Damon (Chair of Planning Commission)

# HISTORIC COURT SQUARE



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
OCTOBER 1998



# A Proposal for Preserving and Celebrating the Oldest Historic Area:

The Charlottesville area has the potential to be a major historical tourist destination in the state similar to Colonial Williamsburg. The rich history of the city in the Revolutionary and early Federal period (1770-1830) includes the authors of the *Declaration* and the *Constitution*, three of our early Presidents, the Lewis and Clark expedition, and the founding of the University of Virginia. Few cities compare with Charlottesville's history during this period. Therefore, the City should set its goals very high when thinking about developing its historical resources. The longterm results could be enormous. The proposals that follow are with these goals in mind.

## **A. Create the Historic Court Square Park (on the east side of the Court House)**

The Courthouse property on Courtsquare plus the adjacent buildings on Park Street and 6th Street (Swan Tavern, No. Nothing, etc) are the most original historical structures from the early history of the city. They still have the look and character of being old and can be preserved in a way that allows tourists to feel they are truly in a historic district. An idea that would not require much cost and also would not require the Courthouse to cease its legal functions, would be to simply use the area on the east side of the Courthouse, both lawn and street, to create a pedestrian park that is designed to celebrate the city's earliest history. Jackson Park on the west side of the Court house has successfully commemorated Civil War history without disrupting County business. Of course, Albemarle County would have to approve the use of the lawn on the east side of the building. Below are practical ideas that the City could do to fulfill this project:

### **1. Close Park Street between High and Jefferson Street**

- a. Erect gates at each end that could be raised when needed (and a gate on East Jefferson Street about 30 feet east of Park Street). Also erect signs identifying the park and dress the area with Revolutionary-era flags.
- b. Move the few police parking spaces to Jefferson St. in front of the Courthouse.
- c. Cut back the trees and shrubs that are on the east side of the Courthouse so that the original front of the building is visible.
- d. The city may want to eventually put in gravel such as at Williamsbug and move telephone poles and wires out of sight for more authenticity.
- e. The traffic engineer said it's feasible to close the street because once Market Street is two-way and 6th street is closed anyway, the traffic patterns through that area will be less needed for people going to and fro. Perhaps the gates could be placed so as to also close off the area where 6th St. and Jefferson intersect and thus make the historic Court Square Park a little larger.)

### **2. Establish a small booth on the east side of the Courthouse.**

- a. Here visitors or tourists could pick up self-guided historical brochure explaining sites on the Square (or short of that, a rack for such brochures could simply be added to the bulletin board that is already there).
- b. If the city or regional tourism council wants to invest more, it could hire someone to sit in the booth and answer questions, sell the President's Pass, sell the new historic guides that are going to be published, etc. (The ideal would be for this person to be dressed in Colonial costume.)

**B. Establish a living-history educational program for the historic Park.**

- a. Costumed tour guides from the Revolutionary and early Federal Period (1770-1830) would be available all day long. In the warmer high-tourist season a Revolutionary soldier camp would be set up (tents or a few small huts). British prisoners of war would be guarded by American soldiers as they actually were in our area during the Revolutionary War. People who demonstrate 18th century arts and crafts, & musicians could be there also.
- b. Have a historic character featured each month during the high tourist season for tourists to meet such as: Thomas and Martha Jefferson, James and Dolly Madison, James Monroe, Shadrack Battles, Meriwether Lewis, George Rogers Clark, Jack Jouett, Daniel Boone, William Michie, Lucy Gilmer, Patrick Henry, Edgar Allen Poe, etc.

-This living-history program could go ahead and be developed even if the City did not want to pay for it. Private organizations could possibly develop this whole program with private funding, adult volunteers, high school kids, etc. Grace Covenant Church, which organizes the annual Governor Jefferson's Thanksgiving Festival, would be willing to help organize this program, but also the regional tourist sites, tourism council, historical society, could work together on it.

**Costs:**

1. Initially the only absolute costs for the City would be to erect the gates and signs (and for the County to cut back shrubs) which would not be too expensive. No costs would be necessary if a living history program were begun using voluntary help or private funding, however, the City may need to invest a little seed-money to help the volunteers purchase some materials, such as soldier tents, etc, rather than expecting private individuals to provide these in addition to their free time. Craft people who do demonstrations may do it for free if they can sell products.
2. The city could later invest in the gravel, a visitor-booth, and an employee's salary to work at the visitor booth. The City may also want to eventually put in their budget the money for summer salaries for these living historians if it wanted to ensure that this program always could be counted on to take place & that it was excellent (not so dependent on volunteers and amateurs). As this attraction became known, more tourists would likely come to the downtown area and thus offset these costs.

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**Some additional long-term ideas:**

1. Purchase or lease properties on our around the Square (the Old Courthouse, or the Swan Tavern, Number Nothing, and other adjacent buildings) and use them for exhibits, a film or slide show, gift shop, snacks, etc. Just one of these buildings could be used in place of having a small booth as mentioned earlier. (There could be fees to get in and see these things and thus cover some of the expenses.)
2. Close off Fifth Street and make it a pedestrian connector between the original Mall and the Court Square area and have horse-drawn carriages giving people rides, etc.
3. Establish a continuously-running trolley on a circuit between the Monticello Visitor Center, UVa and historic Court Square Park. The city would provide the trolley. Tourists could purchase the pass and begin the tour at any of three major points.