

HISTORIC RESOURCE TASK FORCE  
SEPTEMBER 8, 1999

MINUTES

Present:

Jim Wootton  
Ingred Smyer Kelley  
Winston Churchill Gooding  
Jim Eddins  
Mary Hill Caperton  
Mark Beliles  
Lynn Ely  
Francis Fife

Also Present:

Satyendra Singh Huja

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Huja opened the meeting asking for nominations for the Chair. It was moved by Ms. Caperton and seconded by Mr. Eddins that Mr. Beliles, and Mr. Wootton be Co-Chairs. The motion was passed unanimously. Mr. Wootton chaired the meeting. The minutes of August 13 were adopted unanimously with a change in paragraph two in reference to "Ms. Ely".

Ms. Ely reported on the Union Station Exhibit, she indicated that primary label text has been completed and most of the exhibits are ready. She hoped to have the exhibit up by the end of the year.

Mr. Huja reported that the state has approved two markers for Stone Tavern and Central Hotel as well as Three Notch'd Road. The signs will be ready by December.

Ms. Bryant has prepared the Baptist Church description for a local marker. Mr. Beliles will review this. He will also follow up on the Mt. Zion local marker.

→ The task force discussed possible future projects listed below

State Markers - - Mark Beliles  
Local Markers - - Mark Beliles  
Archeology - - Ben Ford  
Court Square Enhancement - - Satyendra Huja  
Information Sharing - - Jim Wootton  
African-American Trail - - Mary Hill Caperton  
Education Program About Local History - - Ms. Lynn Ely  
Historical Booklet (should also list historic resources) - - Fred Hebllich

Regional Tourism Web Site - - Bobbye Cochran  
Documentary Production - - {Wait}  
Identification of Downtown Visitor Center - - Bobbye Cochran  
Unified Tourists Pass - - Bobbye Cochran  
History Of Old Bridges, Streets and Roads - - Howard Newland  
Visit To Historical Charlottesville Campaign - - Bobbye Cochran  
Signs On The buildings - - Jim Eddins  
Award Program For Historical Preservation - - Satyendra Huja and B.A.R.  
Thanksgiving Festival - - Mark Beliles

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30. The next meeting will be October 13, 1999.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS  
FOR DISCUSSION AT FEBRUARY 11, 1998 MEETING

- Getting honorary Co-Chairman designated
- Identification of Original Plat of Charlottesville
- Historical Markers
- Archaeology Program
- Downtown Visitors' Center
- Educational Program about Local History
- Documentary Production
- Unified Tourist Pass
- Historic Charlottesville Brochure
- Identification of Visitors Center on Directional Signs
- History of Old Roads and Bridges
- Identification of Exhibit Space Locations
- Visit Historical Charlottesville Advertisement Campaign
- Oral History Program Promotion
- Awards Program for Historic Preservation
- Historical Neighborhood Markers on Signs

TO: Mr. Huja

FROM: Coy Barefoot

RE: Notes from February 11, 1998 meeting of Task Force on Historic Resources

The purpose of this, our second meeting, was to discuss a list of possible activities and projects we intend to pursue during our charge. Members of the Task Force also volunteered for individual committees to begin work on each project.

The project committees were agreed upon as follows:

1. **Getting Lionel Key and Rebecca McGinness designated as honorary co-chairs-** A brief biography of each to be included in the final report to City Council. Coy Barefoot to contact Mrs. McGinness, Mary Hill Caperton to contact Mr. Key.
2. **Identification of Original Plat of Charlottesville-** Dan Bluestone to prepare report and purpose of this project.
3. **Historical Marker Program-** It was agreed that the task force would pursue a tri-partite program as far as markers are concerned: involvement with the state-sponsored marker program that recognizes sites of state or national significance, a local effort to improve the identification of locally significant sites and events, as well as neighborhood markers that identify and welcome residents to historic City neighborhoods. Coy Barefoot will investigate and prepare the report on these programs.
4. **Archaeology Program-** the Task Force agreed to investigate the possibility of establishing a public archaeology program in the City. UVA archaeology graduate student Drake, will look into this project and prepare a report regarding site selection, educational opportunities, and funding options.
5. **Downtown Visitors Center/Unified Tourist Pass/Identification of Exhibit Space Locations/ "Visit Historic Charlottesville" Advertising Campaign-** a report addressing various tourist and museum issues will be included in the final report to Council. Since some initiatives along this line are currently underway in the community, the Task Force agreed to act as a "clearing house" of ideas and projects already begun, and to investigate ways that Council might facilitate those initiatives.  
Committee members: Lynne Ely, Jim Wooten, Bobby Cochran

6. **Local History Education program-** members discussed options at the elementary, secondary, and college levels. It was noted that the Historical Society's walking tours for grade-schoolers has been and continues to be enormously successful. Regarding secondary education, it was suggested that our local history might be used as a "window" to teaching state and early national history. Members also made a point concerning increasing education about local African-American history in our schools. And it was also suggested that the Task Force investigate ways to better involve incoming college and university students with the larger City community. Committee members: Jim Wooten, Florence Bryant, ~~Jim Wooten~~ Coy Barefoot
7. **Documentary Production-** members of the Task Force decided to investigate avenues that might lead to historic documentary production in the area. Coy Barefoot to look into this possibility.
8. **Historic Charlottesville Brochure/Identifying Old Roads and Bridges-** After much discussion about existing historic brochures of Charlottesville, members decided that there is room for improvement, and opted to establish a committee to suggest how a new brochure might look- emphasis was placed on a good map, "reader friendly" text, and the possibility of involving other areas besides downtown (like the University and historic neighborhoods). The option of drafting a more detailed and lengthy historic Charlottesville handbook in the future was also suggested, though the scope of the committee involves only the brochure. Committee members: Fred Heblich, Mary Hill Caperton, Dan Bluestone, Ingrid Smyer-Kelly
9. **Identification of Visitors Center on Directional Signs-** Bobby Cochran to prepare information for Mr. Huja
10. **Oral History Program-** the Task Force agreed that the personal memories and recollections of the City's older residents were an invaluable and important resource. Though the Historical Society has an oral history program in place, Task Force members decided that there was room for more promotion and facilitation. Lynn Ely and Coy Barefoot will look into ways we might suggest improving this program.
11. **Awards Program for Historic Preservation-** Jim Wooten volunteered to meet with the City's Public Information Officer to investigate ways we might better promote the APVA awards. It was also suggested that there be a local awards program for historic preservation.

12. **Governor Jefferson's Thanksgiving Festival-** Task Force member Mark Beliles, who has been unable to attend the first two meetings, was charged by phone with preparing a report on the plans and status of the Thanksgiving festival, and its relation to the promotion of local history.

Before the meeting concluded, Dan Bluestone suggested we might consider an historic Charlottesville web page, with links to the Historical Society, Tourism Bureau, Monticello, UVA, etc. It was tacitly agreed that we would consider this project at our next meeting.

At the next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, March 11 at 4pm, the Task Force committees will have an opportunity to present progress reports on their work, get feedback from the group, consider the possibility of other projects, as well as take a look at our long term calendar.

*Report prepared by: Coy Barefoot (971-6745, barefoot@cstone.net)*

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### **Enhancing Residential Neighborhoods**

The motion approved on November 3rd in response to the Neighborhood Protection Task Force report was discussed: 1) enforcement/fines - ask staff to identify where fines could justifiably be increased (in all areas); 2) assemble group to look at new use of permit parking as a disincentive, designating a few places for a pilot program; 3) direct the Planning Commission to look at land use and zoning changes that could help; 4) establish a neighborhood leadership institute; 5) and develop new strategies to enforce ordinances already on the books.

Ms. Richards said neighborhoods should be isolated for enforcement in a systematic way, and enforcement should not be done in a reactive way.

Mr. O'Connell explained that the first enforcement sweep occurred over the weekend in mostly University-impacted neighborhoods. Mr. O'Connell added that traffic enforcement has also been stepped up in the last six months.

Mr. Clyde Gouldman, City Attorney, said that a preliminary report on increasing fines will be presented to Council in mid-March.

Mr. Toscano recommended exploring the possibility of hiring additional police officers with hands-on fines for traffic violations.

It was agreed that Ms. Richards and Mr. Cox will work with Mr. Gouldman on the permit parking issue. (proposal to Council late spring, implement before next fall)

Mr. Satyendra Huja, Director of Community Development, said that the issue of the conflicts between the land use plan and zoning will be on the Planning Commission's agenda in March, 1998.

Ms. Richards said that she feels that R-3 developments adjacent to R-2 neighborhoods should require a special permit and that off-site impacts should be able to be considered.

Staff will discuss the idea of a neighborhood leadership institute with the Federation of Neighborhood Associations and will present a proposal in 60 - 90 days.

It was agreed that the Planning Commission would also be asked to look at the issue of increasing fines.

1) Strengthen drainage requirements for new housing development. (June, 1998)

Ms. Richards said she thinks the City's drainage ordinance is inadequate for dealing with problems in some areas. Mr. O'Connell said that increasing drainage requirements will drive up the price of lots.

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2) Build Meadowcreek Parkway: To be discussed at next Council meeting.

3) More money to historic preservation programs.

Mr. Cox said that low income residents oppose new historic districts because of the cost.

Ms. Slaughter recommended formation of an Historic Resources Task Force to discuss this issue and others, including the possibility of establishing a Lewis and Clark Museum.

Mr. Toscano said that there are good ideas in the proposal for an Historic Resources Task Force, but he expressed concern that this issue was not discussed at the Council retreat and about the staff time required for such a Task Force and the expectations that the City will be responsible. Mr. Toscano said he feels there are existing organizations such as the Historical Society who might be able to discuss this proposal or staff such a Task Force.

Ms. Slaughter said that the Task Force could prioritize the proposals and decide what they wanted to work on.

Ms. Daugherty recommended that a couple of Councilors get together and write the charge for an Historic Resources Task Force.

Mr. O'Connell said that he would like to look at the proposal and provide options for staffing.