

Historic Resources Task Force
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2006
609 E. Market Street Suite 114
12:00 Noon

Members present:

Mary Hill Caperton

Douglas Day

Gennie Keller

Helena Devereux

Winston Churchill Gooding

Staff present: Mary Joy Scala

Mary Hill announced that David Neuman will speak to the Venable Neighborhood Association meeting regarding the new arts center and other planned projects.

Mary Joy passed around the January 11 agenda.

Mary Hill asked about the HRTF's budget. Mary Joy said the funding not spent will be carried over.

Douglas said Elizabeth Breeden had an idea of a brochure for the Vistor's Center containing a map and description of all the statuary in town.

He suggested that the HRTF should "think beyond brochures."

There was a discussion of the Tour Books. Douglas said that they gave them away for free at times. Realtors and hotels won't buy them.

Gennie said there will be an APVA/National Trust joint meeting here April 7; perhaps we could provide some books then in packets of conference materials.

Mary Joy suggested the City Manager's office could use the books as gifts.

Douglas passed around the new Historical Society brochures and bumper stickers. He said the Perry Foundation funded the brochures.

There was discussion of getting a tiny URL for the HRTF. Douglas said "Networking Solutions" would register a domain name.

Mary Joy reminded the members of previous discussion that we may want City Council to change our name to the Historic Preservation Commission, which sounds more permanent. That should be done before we get a URL. We should come up with a plan of action before we go to Council.

Gennie said we need an interpretive plan.

Mary Hill asked if that isn't what the Historical Society does.

Douglas said the missions and charges are different. He said the Historical Society serves both the City and the County and addresses scholarship and research, conservation, and genealogy information. The Historical Society maintains a library and museum, holds large public meetings and offers publications.

The Task Force uses City resources to promote City historic places and stories. It helps make historic resources more accessible, with markers on the street, commemorations and promotions.

Gennie said we should be fostering a good climate. She would like to see us do it in a fun way; such as posters on buses.

Douglas said, "Promoting visitation of historic sites."

Helena said, "Promoting community."

Douglas said that "Our Legacy" exhibit will go on the ACHS website. An exhibit in February at Jefferson School is being put together by Rochelle Small-Toney, Ann Carter, and Evelyn Barbour. They want to have a cultural center there.

Helena asked how to get resources up and visible.

Douglas said they have boxes of exhibits. He is loaning to Ann Carter the Doris Collins paintings of Vinegar Hill.

Mary Hill noted there are empty windows on the mall.

Douglas said that CVS asked the ACHS to do a display in their empty storefront windows.

Mary Hill suggested four big exhibits downtown rotating.

Douglas said we could adapt the exhibits they have. Diane Taylor reproduced a transportation display for CTS. Have to hire Neal Gropen.

Mary Hill said that displays would be more visible than more plaques (we have to do McGuffey, though!)

Douglas suggested \$5,000-\$10,000 grants for proposals.

Helena said neighborhoods near UVA have been taken up by development. Starr Hill and Rose Hill property values are up 30%.

Gennie said the displays need to be able to be transported and stored.

Mary Hill suggested aiming for three neighborhoods.

Winston said that neighborhood associations can contribute.

Mary Joy will check with the City to see if the HRTF funds could be used to offer grants for displays.

Douglas said the ACHS could be a resource for images and written materials.

Mary Hill said the Task Force should act as arbiter.

Gennie said to keep it simple – invite certain neighborhoods (Rose Hill, Belmont, Starr Hill, Woolen Mills) to participate and call it a model.

Douglas said it has to have a defined scope. Where would the displays be stored? Digital application? Can it live on?

Winston said the initial showing could be in the neighborhood and we could invite City Council to be there.

Douglas will help write the grant application.

Gennie suggested markers for the Woolen Mill and the Ix Silk Mills.

Someone brought up Community Arts Projects. The Foundation for the Humanities grants are due May 1.

Helena said we are looking for ways to encourage community building. What is the value to a neighborhood or group? To the City as a whole?

Displays should be highly visible and historically accurate.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

