

CHARLOTTESVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Meeting Notes: Friday January 10, 2020 * 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Neighborhood Development Services Conference Room * 610 East Market Street

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HRC Members:

Madeleine Hawks, Chair
Genevieve Keller, Co-Chair
Alissa Diamond, Co-Chair
Jalane Schmidt
Dede Smith

Sally Duncan
Jordy Yager
Heather Hill
Margaret O’Bryant
William Clay III

Staff:
Robert Watkins
Jeff Werner

- Call to order:
 - Madeleine Hawks entertained motion to amend agenda.
 1. Add discussion about public comments at HRC meetings
 - Genevieve Keller made motion to ask staff to consult with City attorneys to amend HRC bylaws to include the following: “At the beginning of each meeting, not more than 10 minutes will be allowed for the introduction of any guests and public comments. Speakers may speak for a maximum of three minutes and shall begin by identifying their name and address. The intent is to allow public input, not initiate a dialogue or debate with the committee. Subsequent to this meeting segment, by majority approval the HRC may amend the agenda to allow further discussion; however, the motion should also establish a time limit for that discussion. The committee chair may also allot 5 minutes at the end of each meeting for public comment.”
Sally Duncan seconded this motion. Motion passes (9-0).
 2. Add updates from Walking Tour Map subcommittee in Public Commemoration segment of meeting

- Education: No items

- Public Commemoration:
 - Vinegar Hill Park
 1. Update on subcommittee discussions and draft memo to City Council
 - Met once since previous meeting to follow up on conversations with Andrea Douglas at December HRC meeting
 - Subcommittee working on list of items to take to new Council
 - Subcommittee to introduce longer discussion at Jan. 17 HRC meeting
 - Walking Tour Map Subcommittee
 1. Subcommittee in process of deciding what to add/take away from list of sites on walking tour
 - Creating list of everything we might want to see, if there were no constraints
 - Subcommittee to meet every 2 weeks
 - No immediate effort to print interim maps

- Court Square Markers
 - Update on subcommittee discussions
 - Coordination w/ county: attending HPC meeting on 01/27; Margaret Maliszewski (Albemarle County design planner) to attend 01/14 subcommittee meeting
 - If more than two subcommittee members attend HPC or County Board of Supervisors meetings, need for public notice
- Publications: No items
- Public Meetings: No items
- Special Projects: No items
- Other Business:
 - Pen Park Cemetery archeological examination
 - City Council approved allocation from NDS Small Area Plans funding. (See pages 110-126 of www.charlottesville.org/home/showdocument?id=67390)
 - Staff recommends HRC contribute to the \$9,319 project cost.
 - Genevieve Keller moved to allocate \$3500 to the Pen Park Cemetery project, and moves all work and subsequent recommendations be in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and Guidelines for Conducting Archaeological Survey in Virginia. Jordy Yager seconded. Motion passed (10-0).
 - Alissa Diamond asked if there is a set of city standards to maintain known burial sites
 - Parks & Rec does have some practices for maintenance, but anything beyond state practices would be brought to HRC.
 - Vinegar Hill Park posters
 - NDS funded printing of vinyl posters. Staff recommends HRC allocate funds for that expense. (Approximately \$600+/-.)
 - Genevieve Keller moved to allocate \$483.99 to reimburse NDS for the vinyl posters. Dede Smith seconded. Motion passed (10-0).
 - 10th and Page Neighborhood historic survey
 - Robert Watkins gave update on status of 10th and Page historic survey.
 - Survey fieldwork to be conducted between January 27 and Feb 4.
 - HRC to discuss community engagement process at February meeting
 - **HRC Annual Meeting Part I:**
 - Review/evaluate 2019 goals
 - Discuss goals and objectives for 2020
 - The following are notes collected during group discussions:

Actions:

1. Set up monthly lectures that could be sponsored by the HRC (ex. At the library or other public space, with light refreshments, in the evening) to expand public reach in the community. Ideally, lectures would be from local citizens who have already been doing research on specific topics, so preparation would not be arduous.
2. Include space on the agenda for information sharing each meeting. Since we are all involved with other history/preservation work and organizations, we could have the opportunity to share with the HRC briefly what events/news is happening that might be of interest to the group (promoting collaboration).
3. Create more of a public process around bringing issues to the HRC to encourage more citizens to engage with us and leverage our relationship with the city.
4. Intentionally recruit HRC members to represent groups not currently represented well (ex. Descendent community, Indigenous community) .
5. Establish the HRC as a more proactive, available resource for other city bodies (ex. BAR, planning commission, city council).

Discussion Notes (from questions - small group responses)

- We have a responsibility to correct the legacy of injustice in the city through the historical record; we are the body capable of keeping the record straight
 - We hope to address white washing (particularly as it relates to Virginia and local history)
 - We commemorate historic events/people/places/patterns, whether they have been previously acknowledged or not
 - We can draw from other organizations that bring other perspectives on history to light
 - We cover a spectrum of history that includes diverse topics from built environment to community history
 - We would like to shift from being seen as just another part of a regional tourism circuit (DC, Richmond, VA history, Revolutionary War, Civil War, etc.) to presenting a more locally-oriented, comprehensive history that includes narratives commonly overlooked
 - We hope to complete the current projects (especially the walking tour and Court Square markers)
 - We want to work towards furthering the recommendations from the BRC
 - We look forward to getting more involved with cemetery work in the city as well as working towards the shaping of Vinegar Hill Park
 - Working with the city's Office of Human Rights and Equity Office, we recommend historical and race training for city staff (particularly for NDS) to better equip them with an understanding of place that could help them, particularly in regards to public meetings and working with citizens.
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- Adjourn
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