# **Meeting Notes (DRAFT)**

# CHARLOTTESVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Friday September 13, 2019 \* 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Development Services Conference Room \* 610 East Market Street

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### **Members Present**

Madeleine Hawks, chair	Melanie Miller	Ellen Wagner
Alissa Diamond	William Clay	Sally Duncan
Heather Hill (arrived 11:45)	Jalane Schmidt	Deirdre Smith
Genevieve Keller	John Baran	Jordy Yager

#### **Members Absent**

Margaret O'Bryant

## Staff

Jeff Werner Robert Watkins

1. Call to order

Intro new members: Sally Duncan and Jordy Yager

2. Approval of Minutes: n/a

3. Education: No items

4. Public Commemoration:

Vinegar Hill posters

- Discussion and resolution of Timeline poster
- Questions about 1960 court case related to referendum vote. (Ref: Daily Progress coverage June 28, 1960 and April 22, 1961.) Recommendation that this be discussed further at a later date. Possibly address on revised poster or in planned markers for VH Park.
- Ms. Wagner moved to accept as final the versions of the VH posters reviewed by the HRC on September 13, 2019. (Ms. Diamond seconded. Vote to approve: Unanimous.)
- Ms. Smith moved to allocate an amount of approximately \$250 for the printing of the VH posters. (Mr. Clay seconded. Vote to approve: Unanimous. Hill did not vote.)
- HRC suggested effort be made to influence the design of the section of the mall being disturbed by the CODE Building construction. Suggested that this be added to the October meeting agenda.

Court Square markers

• Add to October agenda discussion of finalizing markers

### 5. Publications:

Walking Tour Map reprint (interim version)

- No action taken. Add to October meeting agenda.
- Mr. Baran offered to edit the pdf; minor edits as previously discussed.

- HRC acknowledged that a limited reprint should be considered in the interim prior to a full redesign.
- Ms. Hawks offered to contact the Visitors Bureau (CACVB) about contributing to the costs of redesign and printing.
- 6. Public Meetings: No items
- 7. Special Projects:

City Council request re: Slave Auction Block commemoration

- No action taken.
- HRC requested changes to staff outline; res-submit to HRC.

## Initial outline

- The HRC continues to work on a series of markers that will replace the five existing marble, wall plaques (Jefferson Street; Early Hotels; 6<sup>th</sup> Street; Number Nothing; Town Hall/Opera House), add three additional markers (McIntire's Parks; McKee Block; Tavern), and replace large panel and map located at the courthouse. The HRC hopes to complete the project and have signage installed within the next six months, provided we have the consent of the owners of any private buildings.
- The existing plaque at Number Nothing addresses early black history in Charlottesville and includes information about slave auctions and the reported auction block at that site. This plaque is illegible—as are the four others—and its replacement is included in the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Commission. The new marker, titled *Slavery in Court Square*, specifically addresses slavery and explains that auctions occurred throughout the square, not just at Number Nothing.
- Regarding the bronze, slave auction block plaque in the sidewalk at Number Nothing.
  - o The HRC has had no involvement since it was installed several years ago.
  - It has been the committee's understanding that any replacement of that plaque or new memorial was to be addressed as part of the Downtown Parks, Phase I Interim Master Plan, for which the City issued an RFP. (In September 2018, that RFP was cancelled.)
  - o If directed, the HRC can develop a similar and similarly-located plaque with modified language, provided resources are made available.
  - The committee notes that the options are limited for placing the existing plaque or one similar in location not in the sidewalk. Installation on a private building requires owner's consent, which may not be granted. Installation on new post or existing lamp requires adaptation—and associated costs—so as to comply with ADA provisions.
  - Relative to something beyond that limited scope—for example, the design and installation of a more prominent and more meaningful monument to the City's enslaved population—the committee suggests such work be conducted via an RFP and include a robust level of community engagement.
  - Finally, if an RFP is developed for this work, the HRC recommends that states
    the intent to not create a false sense that enslaved people were bought and sold
    only at this one location, but make clear that such activities occurred
    throughout the square, and elsewhere.

# o <u>HRC requested adding</u>:

- The HRC recommends that the existing plaque should not be removed until there is a plan to replace it.
- The HRC proposes to initiate a process to engage the descendant community to meet with the HRC to begin a process to develop ideas about meaningful interpretations on or near the site.

## 8. Other Business

Historic Preservation work plan and CIP

• Ms. Keller moved to approve the proposed letter to City Council encouraging them to fully fund staff's FY21 CIP request for the Charlottesville Historic Preservation Program. (Ms. Smith seconded. Vote to approve: Unanimous.)

November 7, 2019 PAPA event

Ms. Smith moved that the HRC be listed as co-sponsor of the November 7, 2019
 PAPA event and that for the event HRC staff coordinate the use of CitySpace as a City event. (Ms. Schmidt second. Vote to approve: Unanimous.)

(Loss of quorum at 12:30)

Pen Park Cemetery: Determination of burials outside walls

- No action taken.
- HRC suggested that staff notify Parks and Rec; it is Parks and Rec's responsibility to address.

Adjourn 12:40