

DRAFT - MINUTES
CHARLOTTESVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Monday **May 14, 2018** * 11:00 am – 12:00 p.m.
NDS Conference Room * 610 East Market Street

Members Present

Melanie Miller
Margaret O’Bryant
Ellen Wagner
Genevieve Keller
Madeleine Hawks
Heather Hill
Dede Smith
Alissa Diamond
Jalane Schmidt

Members Absent

Liz Sargent

Staff

Jeff Werner

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 11:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of meeting notes (J.Werner’s April 9, 2018 email to HRC). Ms. Smith motion. Ms. O’Bryant second. Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMEMORATION

Court Square Markers Update:

- **McIntire’s Parks.** After much discussion about the draft text, Ms. Diamond proposed a revision that was generally supported. (Draft to be circulated—with the goal of completing it at the June meeting.)
- Note: Staff was asked to research when the individual parks were named. When did Lee and Jackson parks get those names—when given to city, when statues erected, or later? Was Washington Park named for George or for Booker T?

EDUCATION & PUBLIC MEETINGS

SPECIAL PROJECTS

GOALS FOR NEXT MEETING

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Annual Meeting will held on Monday, June 11, 2018, from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m.
- Staff summarized information re: funding for historic resources work. *New Historic Surveys*, approx. \$44k; *Historic Resources Task Force*, approx. \$37k. Ms. Keller noted that the HRTF funds were for the HRC to use towards educations events, maps, markers—such as the proposed Court Square markers, etc.; the NHS funds were for new surveys. Staff mentioned that he is preparing a CLG grant request for matching funds (from NHS) to complete a survey for the Little High Street Neighborhood.
- Staff distributed a city neighborhood map (attached) and suggested the need to tell/display the story of each neighborhood. He noted this was an NDS map, so there may be smaller areas and sub-neighborhoods that are not labeled. He asked for input on that and to consider discussing at a

future meeting how we can work towards telling the story of each. Others noted that a project of such scope would require partners, resources, working closely with each neighborhood, and determining what has already been researched. It was suggested that the community-driven process underway in the Lewis Mountain Neighborhood could be a model.

- Staff circulated two G.Keller memos—2005 and 2009—which offered some possible projects/programs/initiatives for the HRC. These will be discussed at next meeting.
- A comment was made that a lot of historic information is already in the city's web page. Suggested an effort might be made to identify what the city has posted, check it, add what's missing, and make all of it more accessible.
- Mr. Barefoot mentioned the need for a plan regarding the Old Albemarle County Jail. He is he is contact with the county re: its condition and future use; hopes to share more at next HRC meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Approximately 12:10 p.m.

McIntire's Park Campaign

(Revised May 14, 2018)

Between 1917 and 1926, Charlottesville native and philanthropist Paul Goodloe McIntire, donated the land for the city's first five public parks: Justice (formerly Jackson); Emancipation (formerly Lee, pictured); McIntire; Washington; and Belmont. Statues donated to the city by McIntire include those of Lew, Clark, and Sacagawea (pictured), Robert E. Lee, and George Rogers Clark.

The two downtown parks were a part of the late 19th century and early 20th century City Beautiful movement, combining aesthetic renovation with the goals of economic development and tourism promotion. The goals of city beautification were further [versus *often*] combined with racial segregation and, in southern towns, Confederate glorification, known as the Lost Cause.

[*Here at Court Square?*] McIntire had the McKee Block and its African American neighborhood demolished and donated the land for the creation of this park in 1918. In keeping with this approach, the Chamber of Commerce promoted the demolition of the law offices near the courthouse in 1921, providing it with a more open setting. In 1920 McIntire hired New York sculptor Charles Keck to design for this park a statue of Confederate General Stonewall Jackson.

In 2016 the Charlottesville community engaged in a process of research and public discussion about the Confederate statues and downtown parks seen as promoting the Lost Cause narrative of Civil War history. City Council voted in 2017 to remove the Confederate statues and rename Lee and Jackson Parks as Emancipation and Justice Parks, respectively. Later in the year, international attention focused on Charlottesville, as white supremacists and far-right groups protesting these changes were met by counter-protestors downtown, resulting in violent clashes and death.

May 2005

At the April meeting, Mark asked us to develop lists of some things the Task Force might address. Here is my unedited list in no particular priority order. Totally off the top of my head and possibly over the top, too.

Gennie

- Continue state and local marker program, looking for other just as appropriate but alternative ways to identify and honor sites and individuals (publications, poster series, internet, exhibits, films, etc.) try to involve those associated with each site or individuals, investigate ordering and installing National Register plaques for all city districts and encourage privately listed properties to display theirs; provide a link to the NR website for our city listings
- Coordinate with other city groups-the Department, BAR, Urban Design, neighborhood associations, Parks and Rec and local NGOs-Historical Soc., PP, APVA, Garden Clubs, Website, consider a film on local history with city assistance (Maurice Jones and others who worked on Jefferson School film?)-to play on internet and to play in lobby of city hall and other public places, could be used with sister cities, at schools, for Econ Development, etc.
- Help to publicize events of others above—i.e. Hist Soc events, APVA tours, PP programs
- Look for non-traditional ways and places to engage citizens/visitors in our history such as the following:
 - City Hall lobby
 - City schools and playgrounds
 - New transit center
 - Buses
 - Trollies
 - Posters
 - Events
 - Paramount
 - MLK Performing Art Center
 - City-owned cemeteries
- Spearhead update of Preservation Plan as part of Comp Plan; develop concept of interpretive plan as part of Preservation Plan; Develop proposal and find funding for an interpretive plan
- Look for ways to get others to do part of our work, i.e. developers of new buildings or rehabilitations-interpretation inside and out--what used to be, people and events associated--work to encourage this whenever there is demolition or substantial change, work with local schools, churches, and other organizations to encourage histories or to share ones already done-web links
- Give some insights into 19th and 20th century Charlottesville as well as the “Jeffersonian” through interpretation on downtown mall and West Main; is there a way to add interpretation to the city corridors?
- Develop a theme list of trends/movements/ stories/places/people/groups, etc. to investigate and decide how best to interpret
- Maybe a “how things work” for Cville-water, gas, railroads, streetcars, automobiles, phones, parking lots and garages, industries such as Woolen Mill and Ix Silk Mill, public recreation-when did we get these what was life like before, how did the transitions occur? HRC Draft May 14, 2018 5
- Acknowledge city responsibility for its role in segregation and Massive Resistance; work with Jefferson School group(s) to address this part of our history
- Meet once a year with each neighborhood-even relatively new ones have histories
- Neighborhood walks/front porch events to talk about history, invite in old-timers to tell stories to new ones, let new ones tell their coming to Cville stories

- Do a film on Court Square-that addresses its colorful past and role as first “urban renewal-type” project in Charlottesville to complement the sanitized version on the ground; tie into groups that have done films and theater projects for Vinegar Hill
- Coordinate with CIP-get involved with projects like the Belmont Bridge, West Main St beautification or whatever it is, the Mall rehabilitation, Meadow Creek Parkway if it happens (although I still hope not), park redesigns before they happen-make history part of the program in an integral way-Belmont Bridge and West Main could be "history walks" as well as aesthetic enhancements
- What happened to the jail? Is it still on our plate?

December 2009

1. The first is the Avon St condo project. When I heard discussion of re-establishing 6th St., I remembered the old neighborhood there destroyed by urban renewal and wondered about some gesture to evoke its history, perhaps a sidewalk or wall map/site plan from the old Sanborns.
2. Belmont Bridge rehab--many opps for history or public participation. (JW 2018 note: Owner of the old Spudnuts asked about a marker or display at/near his property.)
3. Proposed walking trail from Preston to Cville Coffee. Interesting cultural and natural history there, another destroyed neighborhood for Lane High
4. Coal tower project-railroad history