

MEETING NOTES

Charlottesville Historic Resources Committee^[1]_{SEP}

Friday, January 8, 2020; 11:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Remote meeting via Zoom

HRC Members Present

Rachel Lloyd, Chair
Phil Varner, Co-vice-chair
Genevieve Keller
Alissa Diamond
Jalane Schmidt
Heather Hill
Margaret O'Bryant
Ellen Wagner
Dede Smith
William Clay III
Jordy Yager
Kay Slaughter

HRC Members Not Present

Sally Duncan

City Staff Present

Jeff Werner
Robert Watkins

1. Call to order:

11:00 AM: Chair Rachel Lloyd calls the meeting to order. Lloyd opens the floor up for public comment, but the HRC receives no public comment.

2. Approval of the agenda:

Dede Smith moves to approve the meeting agenda.
William Clay III seconds motion. Motion passes (11-0).

3. Approval of meeting notes:

Genevieve Keller moves to approve the December 2020 HRC Meeting Notes.
Phil Varner seconds motion. Alissa Diamond requests that letter to Council regarding Honorary Street Names be attached with the meeting notes. Motion passes (11-0).

4. Staff Update on Pen Park Cemetery:

Jeff Werner summarizes archaeological findings at Pen Park Cemetery and describes efforts to identify those buried there and reach out to descendants. Werner asks if research and engagement should be done internally with help from the HRC or by hiring a consultant. Members express that the project is beyond the scope of the HRC and staff, so hiring a consultant is likely necessary. Regarding potential HRC contributions for a consultant, some members communicate a preference that Parks be responsible for the funds. Given that the Mellon grant request includes planned engagement with descendants of enslaved people, the Pen Park project could be included as part of the request. Members ask staff to develop a phased overview of the project, so that the HRC can better assess how it might contribute. The committee recognizes that any work the City undertakes to identify those buried at Pen Park will serve as a model for any other burial sites found in Charlottesville in the future.

5. Coordinate statement on Slave Auction Block Site commemoration:

Werner asks HRC to reiterate the status of its projects at Court Square. When the Slave Auction Block Plaque was removed in Winter 2020, the HRC proposed a temporary marker at the site but then after receiving feedback from members of the descendant community, the committee decided to first embark on a robust engagement process to determine how the site should be memorialized. With the ongoing public health crisis, this public engagement was interrupted, but the HRC intends to re-commence this process as soon as circumstances allow. The HRC prefers creating a local sign or memorial versus a state marker to retain local control over its design and text.

6. Mellon Foundation Monuments Project Update:

Jalane Schmidt has no update on the draft grant.

7. Coordinate Agenda for Annual HRC Meetings in February:

HRC will host two back-to-back planning meetings in February (02/12 and 02/19, tentatively). In preparation of these meetings, the committee proposes the following discussion topics:

- BRC recommendations/progress
- HRC projects reprioritization due to covid-related restrictions
- Best practices for meetings and community engagement due to covid-related restrictions
- Subcommittee memberships
- New or different methods for interpretation of historic resources
- Coordination with tourism outreach (kiosks/mobile units/others)
- Partnership opportunities / coordination with advocacy groups
- Theme and context studies
- Special projects, such as coordination with the CODE Building
- Opportunities for archaeology
- GIS mapping and documentation for city historic resources

8. Announcements:

Smith announces that Riverview Farm has been added to the National Register and the Albemarle Training School marker is going up.

Werner announces that archaeology might be conducted at the Levy Opera House site.