

February 2021 Historic Resources Committee Packet, Meeting II
February 19, 2021, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

This packet contains various materials to guide meeting discussions. The materials are listed below, linked and with reference to their page in the PDF file.

1. [Subcommittee Membership Roster](#) Page 2 of PDF
2. [2020 workplan to complete Court Square Markers](#) Page 3 of PDF
3. [February 2020 letter to City Council re: Vinegar Hill Park](#) Page 6 of PDF

List of Subcommittees

Walking Tour Map Subcommittee:

Dede Smith
Jordy Yager
William Clay III

Vinegar Hill Subcommittee:

Alissa Diamond
Gennie Keller
Jordy Yager
Ellen Wagner
Sally Duncan

Court Square Markers Subcommittee (also assumed discussions about Slave Auction Block site):

Jalane Schmidt
Alissa Diamond
Gennie Keller
Sally Duncan
Jordy Yager

I. Re-Assessment Stage: Determining workplan to move forward

- A. Meeting 1 (02/06/2020): Review necessary steps to move forward; decide on schedule for completion; draft mission statement
- B. Meeting 2 (02/10/2020): Complete mission statement; finalize schedule; assign 9 markers to specific meeting dates for review

II. Content Editing Stage: Make necessary additions and revisions

- A. Meeting 3 (03/16/2020), 2 hours:
 - 1. Review County Marker
- B. Meeting 4 (03/23/2020), 2 hours:
 - 1. Slavery in Court Square
 - 2. Taverns
- C. Meeting 5 (03/30/2020), 2 hours
 - 1. Sixth Street
 - 2. Courthouse
- D. Meeting 6 (04/06/2020), 2 hours
 - 1. Beautification and Erasure
 - 2. Levy Opera House
- E. Meeting 7 (04/13/2020), 2 hours
 - 1. Early Hotels
 - 2. McKee Block

III. Copy Editing Stage: Review for readability and adherence to mission statement

- A. Meeting 8 (04/20/2020), 2 hours
 - 1. Review County Marker [or review 4 regular markers]
- B. Meeting 9 (04/27/2020), 2 hours
 - 1. Review Marker x
 - 2. Review Marker x
 - 3. Review Marker x
 - 4. Review Marker x
- C. Meeting 10 (05/04/2020), 2 hours
 - 1. Review Marker x
 - 2. Review Marker x
 - 3. Review Marker x

4. Review Marker x

At end of Meeting 10, circulate marker text to CVHR, schools coordinator, full committee, Melanie Miller and Madeleine Hawks. Ask for comments within one week.

D. Meeting 11 (05/11/2020), 2 hours: Address comments and feedback.

E. Meeting 12 (05/18/2020), 2 hours: Final edits.

At end of Meeting 12, re-circulate marker text to full committee.

IV. Full Committee Review:

A. Meeting 13 (not scheduled), 2 hours: special work session to review and approve markers.

Meeting 13 to be scheduled at upcoming HRC meeting. Last week of May or early June.

Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Court Square Marker project is to contribute to the ongoing, inclusive and accurate account of the Court Square area from the earliest recorded time to the present. Our reparative intent is to illuminate and update stories minimized and distorted in the city's past markers and publications. The establishment of the Albemarle County Courthouse at this location made it the social, physical, economic, and governmental center of a growing community and its associated power imbalances. These markers will look honestly at past people, places and events associated with Court Square, in order to reveal a more truthful and humane narrative of the activities that institutionalized and perpetuated inequalities.

Old Marker Title	New Marker Title	Who's writing it?	Location
Understanding Court Square	Understanding Court Square	Jalane	Albemarle Courthouse
McIntire's Parks	Beautification and Erasure	Alissa	Court Square Park
McKee Block	McKee Block	Jordy	Court Square Park
Jefferson Street	Courthouse	Jordy	Jefferson Street
Early Hotels	Early Hotels	Alissa	Jefferson Street
Sixth Street	Sixth Street	Gennie	Sixth Street
Number Nothing	Slavery in Court Square	Alissa	Number Nothing
Taverns	Taverns	Sally	Park Street
Town Hall & Levy Opera House	Town Hall & Levy Opera House	Sally	Park Street



Madeleine Hawks, Chair
Historic Resources Committee
City of Charlottesville
Department of Neighborhood Development Services
Attn: Staff Contact Jeff Werner
City Hall - 610 E. Market Street
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902
HRC@charlottesville.org

RE: Vinegar Hill Park (memo to Council)

February 17, 2020

Dear Mayor Walker and City Councillors,

Given that the composition of City Council has changed completely in the last three years, we hope to communicate the following recommendations and updates to the new Council regarding ongoing commemoration in the area known as Vinegar Hill:

- The HRC has formed a Vinegar Hill Subcommittee to consider issues relating to Vinegar Hill. In January, a former resident of Vinegar Hill joined the Subcommittee.
- To best incorporate the desires, stories, and remembrances of those who lived in Vinegar Hill, and their families, the HRC has agreed to partner with the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center (JSAAHC), which is in the process of forming an advisory committee of former residents and their relatives. At the direction of JSAAHC Executive Director Andrea Douglas, and with facilitation by JSAAHC Fellow and HRC member Jordy Yager, this advisory committee will inform the HRC's work and direction when considering any future memorialization involving Vinegar Hill.
- The HRC urges the City to support fundraising for the Vinegar Hill Monument, intended for installation on the historic Jefferson School property, near the intersection of 4th Street NW and Commerce Street. It was designed by Melvin Edwards, a world-renowned African American sculptor. The monument's design was an action-item from the robust community engagement efforts of the City-sponsored Dialogue on Race program in 2011, and the City provided funds for artist selection. In 2017, the City's Blue

Ribbon Commission on Race, Memorials, and Public Space listed the monument's installation as one of its recommendations. Support could come in the form of direct allocations, and/or consciousness-raising efforts for fundraising.

- In December, 2016, the City of Charlottesville passed a resolution to designate a portion of the Downtown Pedestrian Mall as, "Vinegar Hill Park," and to allocate \$15,000 for signage to identify the area as, "Vinegar Hill Park." The area is now under redesign for ADA accessibility in concert with the ongoing Center of Developing Entrepreneurs (CODE) project construction at the site of the former Main Street Arena. The HRC requests that City Council recommit to funding this signage. The Vinegar Hill Park shall serve as an introduction and gateway to the historic Jefferson School African American Heritage Center that is the focus of African American programming, interpretation, and legacy-building in the region. The HRC plans to recommit to an effort to provide limited (temporary?) interpretive signage for Vinegar Hill Park that is coordinated with the CODE project's ADA accessibility plans. The HRC should coordinate this effort with JSAAHC efforts to engage former residents to help craft the interpretive wording and details on signs.
- City Council should be aware that Vinegar Hill's historic limits extended beyond the area cleared during Urban Renewal. Some physical fabric remains as do portions of the historic street grid. Buildings on West Main Street including, and most notably, the former Inge's Store, a few surviving buildings on 4th Street, the Odd Fellows former hall (now the site of Common House), the current Fellini's Restaurant, the Artful Lodger (former A&P), and the other buildings on Market Street between Old Preston and 2nd Street all predate the demolition of most of Vinegar Hill as do several buildings on 2nd Street West, south of Market Street. The westernmost block of Main Street, as well as the sites of the Omni Hotel and the Federal Courthouse, are within the traditional boundaries of the area considered Vinegar Hill, and should be identified and interpreted as such in the designated park area. In consultation with the JSAAHC and the descendent community, the extent of the area traditionally considered as Vinegar Hill shall be identified and demarcated in a manner consistent with installations and demarcations in the Vinegar Hill Park and graphically depicted on a map in the park. New construction within these bounds should clearly identify that they replace the historic structures removed during Urban Renewal. Future demolitions should be reviewed in the context of the Vinegar Hill narrative and the contributions that the surviving buildings and the histories that they represent physically. Every effort shall be made to honor the legacy of this area that was so integral to the city's history and African American culture, commerce, and community life.
- The HRC will continue to add to the temporary signage addressing the history of Vinegar Hill on the construction fence surrounding the CODE building construction. The first set of seven (7) temporary signs were installed in October, 2019, and the HRC plans to add more signs over the course of 2020, pending necessary approvals. Themes for these new signs may include:

- Vinegar Hill: Then and Now
- Public Decisions and Leadership
- The Businesses of Vinegar Hill
- Selective Imagery/Propaganda leading to neighborhood demolition

If you have any questions, please contact me at 540-535-9632 or mdarcyhawks@gmail.com or email the whole committee: hrc@charlottesville.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madeleine D. Hawks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a stylized "D" and "H".

Madeleine D. Hawks
Chair, Historic Resources Committee