

MEETING NOTES

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

Friday, May 14, 2021; 11:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Remote meeting via Zoom

HRC Members present

Phil Varner, Co-vice-chair
Sally Duncan, Co-vice-chair
Kay Slaughter
William Clay III
Heather Hill
Dede Smith
Margaret O'Bryant
Genevieve Keller
Jalane Schmidt

HRC Members not present

Rachel Lloyd, Chair
Ellen Wagner

Staff present

Jeff Werner
Robert Watkins

1. Call to order:

Co-vice-chair Phil Varner calls the meeting to order. Varner opens the floor up to public comment but the HRC receives no public comment.

Approval of the agenda:

Dede Smith requests time for a discussion about the walking tour map before the discussion about the Slave Auction Block site.

Heather Hill moves to approve the amended agenda. Smith seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously.

2. Approval of meeting notes:

Smith moves to approve the February 19, 2021 HRC meeting notes. Kay Slaughter seconds motion. With Varner abstaining, motion passes unanimously.

Margaret O'Bryant moves to approve the March 12, 2021 HRC meeting notes. Smith seconds motion. With William Clay III abstaining, motion passes unanimously.

Smith moves to approve April 9, 2021 HRC meeting notes with discussed revisions. Clay seconds motion. With Sally Duncan and Hill abstaining, motion passes unanimously.

3. Walking Tour Subcommittee Update

Smith offers an update on the subcommittee's progress. Smith and Slaughter had met between the April and May HRC meetings and organized a preliminary spreadsheet of sites. Subcommittee proposes that different locations on map would focus on specific historical moments (early history at Court Square, mercantile nineteenth-century history at Main Street, etc.).

Committee members express concern that limiting each geographic vantage point to a specific century or historical moment will imply that the area's historic significance is limited to that time.

4. Planning Engagement for Slave Auction Block site:

Jalane Schmidt updates committee on May 5 meeting with descendant community representatives, planning future engagement for Slave Auction Block site.

Schmidt and Robert Watkins review the following feedback from descendants at the meeting:

- Engagement meetings be held at a variety of times and locations to allow as many people to participate as possible.
- Be patient in the process. The process is as important as the result.
- Keep people informed about the site; not everybody is familiar with it.

Committee discusses holding large public meetings once health situation allows.

Varner asks how committee will determine who to listen to the most. Schmidt recommends that the committee prioritize those who can trace ancestry to Albemarle County.

5. Staff Updates:

a. Daughters of Zion Cemetery Marker

Watkins updates committee that updated marker is installed and will be recognized at Decoration Day ceremony on May 30.

Smith reads a letter from the Preservers of the Daughters of Zion Cemetery expressing gratitude for updated marker.

b. Status of Cost-Share Grant Application for Downtown Mall

Staff offers background on Downtown Mall study and describes grant application submitted to DHR for funding. Committee members express concern about multi-phased approach, but staff confirms that scope of work remains the same.

6. Coordinate Agenda for June HRC Meeting:

Committee discusses items to include on June HRC agenda, including engagement updates for Slave Auction Block site, walking tour map, and a discussion about the disposition of the Confederate statues.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Charlottesville Historic Resources Committee is to advocate for historic preservation; to promote an appreciation of local historic resources, both tangible and intangible; and to encourage and coordinate, with appropriate municipal agencies, civic organizations, institutions and individual scholars, the documentation and interpretation of local history.

The Charlottesville Historic Resources Committee achieves its mission through:

- Education
- Public commemoration (historic plaques, signs, markers, and civic festivals and ceremonies)
- Publications (maps, brochures, tour books, and digital media)
- Public meetings (planning sessions, workshops, and lectures)
- And through other means.

* Regarding public comment(s). The HRC values community participation and input and welcomes public comments at meetings. 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 two-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. Additionally, prior to adjourning--and applying the conditions above--the HRC may allow a period not to exceed five minutes for public comment.