

Meeting Notes

Charlottesville Historic Resources Committee^[1]_[SEP]
Friday, February 11, 2022; 11:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.
Remote meeting via Zoom

HRC Members present

Phil Varner, Chair
Sally Duncan, Vice-chair
Margaret O'Bryant
Dede Smith
Genevieve Keller
Jalane Schmidt
Kay Slaughter
Tom Chapman
Jessica Livingston
Richard Wilson

HRC Members not present

Staff present

Jeff Werner
Robert Watkins

1. Call to order:

Meeting guests introduce themselves. Sterling Howell is the Program and Volunteer Coordinator with the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society. MaDeja Leverett and Jake Calhoun are University of Virginia graduate students conducting research on the sale of enslaved people at the Albemarle County Courthouse.

2. Approval of the agenda:

Dede Smith moves to approve the agenda. Margaret O'Bryant seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Public Comment:

The HRC receives no public comment.

4. Engagement of the Descendant Community for Court Square/Slave Auction Block site:

Calhoun, shares one-page research report via email.

Graduate researchers have so far conducted research between 1831-1842 so far, mainly in chancery records.

Leverett shares a list of names they've identified in their research so far.

Smith and Jeff Werner express importance of coordinating with other research projects so redundant work isn't done.

Jalane Schmidt thanks graduate researchers for their work so far, and for Phil Varner's work on the report to City Council.

Committee members offer feedback on report to City Council.

Members discuss the need to credit all who have made contributions in report.

The report needs to identify the committee's staff support.

Committee discusses the best language to include in the report. It is important to be precise but also use language that a broad audience can understand since it is a public document. HRC discusses using terms like trafficking, antebellum, auctions, and sales.

Schmidt updates committee on planning a lecture for April with Dr. Anne Bailey.

5. Downtown Walking Tour Map Work Session:

Smith offers update on walking tour map. Map subcommittee is still figuring out how to write an engaging walking tour in so few words. Subcommittee members reached back out to map designer and Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society (ACHS) staff for feedback. Subcommittee has moved away from Vinegar Hill inset map to allow for more text.

Committee discusses having a walking tour meeting with ACHS to determine best routes and sites for map.

6. Staff Updates:

Staff announces that the Board of Architectural Review will review plans for a new Albemarle County District Courthouse at the February meeting.

7. Coordinate Agenda for March HRC Meeting:

HRC will retain similar agenda for March meeting.

8. Announcements:

Tom Chapman and Jeff Werner and others gave a presentation on Pen Park through the library.

Chapman announces that he's been working with Sally Duncan and Renaissance School students to put together an exhibit at ACHS.