

Meeting Notes
Charlottesville Historic Resources Committee
Friday, April 8, 2022; 11:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.
Remote meeting via Zoom

HRC Members present

Phil Varner, Chair
Margaret O’Bryant
Dede Smith
Kay Slaughter
Tom Chapman
Richard Wilson
Jalane Schmidt
Genevieve Keller

HRC Members not present

Jessica Livingston
Sally Duncan, Vice-chair
Richard Wilson

Staff present

Jeff Werner
Robert Watkins

1. Call to order:

Historic Resources Committee (HRC) chair Phil Varner calls meeting to order and introduces new HRC member Dr. John Mason.

Robert Watkins calls committee attendance.

2. Approval of the agenda:

Dede Smith moves to approve the agenda. Kay Slaughter seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes:

a. March 2022 Meeting Notes

Slaughter moves to approve the meeting notes. Smith seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously with Mason and Genevieve Keller abstaining.

4. Public Comment*

The HRC receives no public comment.

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

Jalane Schmidt reminds HRC that Dr. Anne Bailey will be delivering lecture at public library on following Tuesday (04/10). Dr. Bailey is author of *The Weeping Time: Memory and the Largest Slave Auction in American History*. Dr. Bailey will meet with descendants at Court Square prior to her talk.

Schmidt updates committee on courthouse records research being conducted by graduate student researchers at UVA. The two researchers, Jake Calhoun and MaDeja Leverett, anticipate continuing work through the summer.

Varner suggests that HRC coordinate with Calhoun and Leverett to plan when to present next progress report to City Council.

6. Downtown Walking Tour Map Work Session:

Smith and Slaughter offer update on walking tour map progress. In last month, they had met with map designer. New map will be more site-specific, and text will only discuss sites that are on map.

New map will have two panels for Court Square, two panels for Market Street, three panels for Downtown Mall. Slaughter and Smith are still deciding how to filter what sites should fit on map.

Slaughter and Smith welcome feedback and suggestions for what sites are included.

Tom Chapman acknowledges that new group, Friends of Cville Downtown, is looking to develop app-based tour of Downtown Charlottesville.

7. Meeting Procedure Discussion:

Varner proposes more informal rules of procedure “Martha’s Rules,” also used by City’s Human Rights Commission.

Some members note that formal recommendations for Council or money allocations should use formal vote.

8. Staff Updates:

Staff updates committee on new Albemarle and Charlottesville General District Courthouse project. New building will be constructed on lot behind Levy Opera House, on a piece of land once used as the town battery.

City’s Board of Architectural Review previously made recommendation that Albemarle County conduct preliminary archaeological survey at site, but County has expressed that such a project is not within their schedule. Staff and committee members agree that such survey would be an important project. Staff is looking into strategies for making survey happen.

9. Coordinate Agenda for May HRC Meeting:

In addition to regular meeting items (Court Square commemoration and Downtown Walking Tour), HRC members request that discussion about marking Pen Park Cemetery be added to May agenda.

10. Announcements:

Slaughter announces upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration.

Mason announces upcoming Holsinger Studio Portrait Projects exhibitions, to be held at UVA and to travel to community gathering spots.