

Meeting Notes
Charlottesville Historic Resources Committee
Friday, June 10, 2022; 11:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.
Remote meeting via Zoom

HRC Members present

Sally Duncan, Vice-chair
Margaret O’Bryant
Dede Smith
Kay Slaughter
Genevieve Keller
Jalane Schmidt
Jessica Livingston
John Mason

HRC Members not present

Phil Varner, chair
Tom Chapman
Richard Wilson

Staff present

Jeff Werner
Robert Watkins

1. Call to order:

Vice-chair Sally Duncan calls meeting to order.

Robert Watkins calls role.

2. Approval of the agenda:

Committee asks to add a discussion about former Trinity Episcopal Church building (415 10th Street NW) to agenda.

Dede Smith moves to approve amended agenda. Genevieve Keller seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes:

a. May 2022 Meeting Notes

Margaret O’Bryant moves to approve May 2022 Historic Resources Committee meeting notes. Smith seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously with Kay Slaughter 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 introduces committee to Cassondra Hanna, new graduate student researcher conducting courthouse research with Jake Calhoun and MaDeja Leverett.

Schmidt also recounts recent visit to public school classes where she engaged with students about memory and history and potential of slave auction block site. Committee discusses value in engaging public schools as community work.

6. Downtown Walking Tour Map Work Session:

Smith and Slaughter share that map draft will be ready for review at July meeting and request a significant portion of meeting for review. Subcommittee will circulate draft text before meeting.

7. Committee Membership Discussion:

Staff updates committee on membership term length. Staff will send committee list of term lengths and work with clerk to work out any errors.

8. 415 10th Street NW Discussion

Keller moves that the HRC recommend to City Council to initiate process that will eventually, if warranted, lead to this site (church, parish hall, and rectory) being considered as a candidate for an individually protected property.

Committee convenes discussion. Slaughter advises that any rezoning will outlive changes in ownership. She recommends that the property is suitable for some historic protections.

Keller recommends that any committee statement focus on historic designation for property, not zoning changes.

Committee drafts following statement:

The Historic Resources Committee requests the Planning Commission and City Council initiate the process necessary to establish 415 10th Street, NW, as a locally designated historic property, with the church, parish hall, and rectory as contributing structures.

The history of the Trinity Episcopal Church is well-documented, including its establishment in 1919 at 213 West High Street, its forced relocation in 1939 to the 10th Street site, and that the church—and likely the parish hall—was constructed in 1910 in Fluvanna County for the Church of the Ascension and moved to 10th Street in 1939. During the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, Trinity’s clergy and congregation were leaders in the City’s Civil Rights movement.

For these reasons and more, this site and its buildings deserve local designation and the protections available with that designation.

Keller moves that the committee adopt this statement. Slaughter seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously.

9. Staff Updates:

Staff updates committee regarding Downtown Mall historic survey. Smith inquires about replacing historic marker about school integration at Johnson Elementary with larger sign. Staff shares that existing sign installed through City Manager’s office.

10. Coordinate Agenda for July HRC Meeting:

Committee plans to review walking tour map during substantial portion of July meeting.