

## Meeting Notes

Charlottesville Historic Resources Committee  
Friday, January 14, 2022; 11:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.  
Remote meeting via Zoom

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### HRC Members present

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

### HRC Members not present

Jessica Livingston

### Staff present

Jeff Werner

#### 1. Call to order:

HRC chair Phil Varner calls meeting to order and calls committee attendance.

#### 2. Approval of the agenda:

Genevieve Keller asks to add an item to the agenda: consideration of a new ex-officio HRC member, Tom Chapman of the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society.

Dede Smith asks to add an item welcoming new HRC member Richard Wilson.

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

#### 3. Public Comment:

The HRC receives no public comment.

Jeff Werner asks to welcome two University of Virginia students interning at Neighborhood Development Services who have joined call.

#### 4. Approval of meeting notes:

##### a. December 2021 HRC Meeting Notes:

Margaret O'Bryant requests correcting a mistake in the notes regarding the Ann Bailey lecture.

Smith moves to accept the amended meeting notes. O'Bryant seconds motion. With Keller abstaining, motion passes unanimously.

#### 5. Introductions

Varner welcomes Richard Wilson to HRC and Wilson offers introduction.

Zoe Larive and Paige Werman, two university students, offer introductions.

6. Engagement of the Descendant Community for Court Square/Slave Auction Block site:  
[11:25, 45 minutes]

Committee discusses progress report for project to City Council. No action taken.  
Committee plans to have report ready by February City Council meeting. Varner has started work on report and will offer draft by next meeting. Three major points in report:

- a. Descendant engagement in order to build trust and community support around project
  - i. Challenges, as well as opportunity provided by virtual engagement
- b. Summary of the primary comments received by descendants so far
  - i. The fact that there needs to be an educational component
  - ii. The preference for something substantial
- c. Request for a budget, timeframe, and hard commitment to do something significant from Council

Jalane Schmidt has been coordinating with James Madison Regional Library staff to coordinate a spring talk with Dr. Ann Bailey, historian with expertise on slave auctions.

Schmidt shares that more is being learned about the sale and auctions of enslaved people at Court Square through university graduate student researchers.

Kay Slaughter asks that Varner might include results from graduate research in Council progress report and presentation.

Committee members consider possibility of erecting Virginia Department of Historic Resources state highway marker to recognize sale of enslaved people at Court Square.

7. Downtown Walking Tour Map Work Session

Walking Tour Map subcommittee members, Smith and Slaughter, offer update on progress drafting text for walking tour map. No action taken.

Subcommittee used spreadsheet to identify potential sites in major geographical areas for map: Court Square, Downtown, Water Street, Market Street and Vinegar Hill. Designer used these sites to create a prototype, presented at last meeting.

Smith and Slaughter working on drafting text for map entries.

Wilson asks that map entries contain dates and architects, when available.

Committee discusses how to interpret Downtown Mall history on map.

8. Committee Membership Discussion

Keller acknowledges that Tom Chapman, Executive Director of Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society, is regular attendee of HRC members and asks that he be added as ex-officio member.

Keller moves to ask Tom Chapman join the HRC as an ex-officio member.

Slaughter seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Schmidt agrees to ask Andrea Douglas at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center if she's interested in joining as an ex-officio member.

9. Staff Updates:

Staff has no updates to offer.

10. Coordinate Agenda for February HRC Meeting:

Committee decides that only one meeting is necessary in February.

11. Announcements: [12:45, 5 minutes]

Kay announced an upcoming virtual community event for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.