

Meeting Notes
Charlottesville Historic Resources Committee^[1]_{SEP}
Friday, November 12, 2021; 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
Jalane Schmidt
Kay Slaughter
Margaret O'Bryant
Jessica Livingston

HRC Members not present

Heather Hill

Staff present

Jeff Werner
Robert Watkins

1. Call to order:

- a. Virtual introductions
- b. Public comments

Paul Mack offers comments expressing concern that parking spaces occupy the space where enslaved people were sold outside Number Nothing.

Marvin Morgan offers comments expressing similar concern to Mr. Mack, and hopes that the parking spaces will be removed to reserve space for memorialization.

2. Approval of the agenda:

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

3. Approval of meeting notes:

- a. October 2021 HRC Meeting Notes

Genevieve Keller requests that the October meeting notes include a transcript of the discussion with Dr. Mabel Wilson. She also requests that the notes be amended to include mention that at the October meeting, HRC reviewed examples of dispersed memorials, such as that in Berlin.

Keller moves to approve the October meeting notes with amendment and attached transcript. Smith seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously.

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

Jalane Schmidt offers update on graduate research being done through University of Virginia Memory Project. Questions are coming up about who has access and has rights to the data produced.

Committee agrees that the Historic Resources Committee should make a formal recommendation to City Council on how to proceed.

Phil Varner clarifies that there are three stakeholders whose needs should be addressed. First, the descendants, who the HRC has prioritized so far. Next are the members of the public advocating for proper memorialization. Finally, the professionals (designers, planners, City staff) who need to fulfill their professional obligations).

HRC should present a preliminary report to Council after new members take office. The report will express what HRC has done so far and what the plan is going forward, with the expectation of a fuller report mid-year, probably after graduate researchers have completed their work. The January report would also give a sense of the budget.

Schmidt updates HRC about potential to host Dr. Anne Bailey for lecture. Schmidt is talking with groups at UVA to see if there is interest in co-sponsoring event. Staff relays that the public library is eager to co-host a lecture with HRC.

Varner expresses that HRC should set a fairly high goal for budget and lobby Council to allocate money from Capital Improvement Plan instead of general fund, since project will take several years.

Keller suggests that a Department of Historic Resources highway marker might be a good first step.

Varner raises idea of engaging Albemarle County in work. Their work on “Re-Imagining Court Square” stalled with COVID and staffing changes.

5. Downtown Walking Tour Map Work Session:

HRC members commend Anne Chesnut for prototype so far.

Smith explains that it is just a prototype, to show how much information can fit on a map. From Anne Chesnut’s experience, too much text can be daunting for users.

Keller expresses concern that Midway School site and Lane High School are too far out of bounds for the map.

6. Staff Updates:

Staff offers update on Board of Architectural Review work and launch of Downtown Mall historic survey.