

NOTES

Charlottesville Historic Resources Committee^[1]_{SEP}
Friday, September 10, 2021; 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
Jessica Livingston
Rachel Lloyd
Heather Hill

HRC Members not present

Kay Slaughter

Staff present

Jeff Werner
Robert Watkins

1. Call to order: [11:00, 15 minutes]
 - a. Virtual introductions
 - b. Public comments*

Frank Dukes offers comment on the Slave Auction Block and brings attention to the fact that Number Nothing (O Court Square) is for sale.

Tom Chapman thanks staff for help procuring funds for Pen Park research and looks forward to future collaboration with HRC for engagement and research.

2. Approval of the agenda: [11:15; 5 minutes]

Margaret O'Bryant moves to approve the meeting agenda, Rachel Lloyd seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Approval of meeting notes: [11:20, 5 minutes]
 - a. August 2021 HRC Meeting Notes

Dede Smith moves to approve the August 2021 Meeting Notes. Genevieve Keller seconds motion. With Heather Hill abstaining, motion passes unanimously.

4. Engagement of the Descendant Community for Court Square/Slave Auction Block site: [11:25, 15 minutes]
 - a. Coordinate meeting with Mabel Wilson and other future steps.

Committee considers reaching out to other potential advisors to plan Court Square memorialization process, like Dr. Anne Bailey.

With the Memory Project at the University of Virginia, a number of graduate students have interviewed for research positions to research sale of enslaved people at Court Square. At some point in the future, they can attend an HRC meeting.

Staff offers three opportunities for communicating with Council:

- Incorporate feedback from initial engagement meetings into letter to Council
- Recommend that Council revisit Downtown Parks RFPs and incorporate engagement and design process for memorialization
- Separate memorialization out from parks RFP for standalone project

Keller reaffirms that meeting with Mabel Wilson won't be just for engaging, but to get advice on how to incorporate feedback into a design process.

Keller proposes retaining Anne Bailey for a public webinar to present her work.

Jalane Schmidt will reach out to Bailey to consider hosting webinar.

Phil Varner sees problems that staff proposes as how to frame the descendant feedback that committee is hearing into park redesigns.

Committee acknowledges that parks has a clearly defined master planning process for all its parks. Broader community engagement to determine what programming is held in which park. Perhaps HRC should hold joint meeting with parks committee.

Committee should be working towards something, by the end of the year, with recommendation to Council for Court Square Park (perhaps also Market Street Park), accompanied by whatever historical information collected.

Sale of Number Nothing presents unique opportunity, but committee recognizes that purchase of site would be major undertaking. Perhaps sale could present opportunity for pop-up interpretation.

5. Downtown Walking Tour Map Update: [11:40, 25 minutes]
 - a. Review sites and organization of new walking tour map
 - b. Discuss using HRC funds to hire a designer.

Funding for designer approved last month. Moving forward with design, but subcommittee identifies various themes to be incorporated into new map.

Lloyd asks about translating PDF into digital version.

6. Vinegar Hill Park Signage: [12:05, 20 minutes]
 - a. discuss proposed signage at Vinegar Hill Park

Staff offers that HRC initiated Vinegar Hill Park designation, so if anybody sees signage go through, it'll be this group.

Varner expresses that while he understands putting up signs to stake it out to make sure that it's not forgotten, he also thinks that just putting up signs with limited interpretation makes it a not-important thing. He believes that we should not put anything up, or do something significant, with engagement with residents and reaching out to Parks for more wholesale redesign RFP.

Dede proposes signs that say “coming soon.”

Rachel Lloyd proposes event that will draw out local knowledge to figure out what boundaries of V.H. were.

Perhaps installing markers with photos and minimal text, and oral histories.

Staff to investigate what our options for temporary signage are.

7. Amend Rules of Procedure [12:25, 10 minutes]

- a. Make amendments regarding public comment and membership (as seen in packet)

The committee may designate other ex-officio members who are non-voting – amendment.

O'Bryant moves to approve adopted rules of procedure. Smith seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Smith moves to appoint Robert Watkins as an ex-officio member. Lloyd seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously.