

MEETING NOTES
Charlottesville Historic Resources Committee^[1]_{SEP}
Friday, July 9, 2021; 11:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Remote meeting via Zoom

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HRC Members present

Phil Varner, Chair
Sally Duncan, Vice-chair
Kay Slaughter
Dede Smith
Margaret O'Bryant
Genevieve Keller
Jalane Schmidt
Jessica Livingston

HRC Members not present

Heather Hill
William Clay III

Staff present

Jeff Werner
Robert Watkins

1. Call to order:

Chair Phil Varner calls the meeting to order. Varner opens the floor up to public comment but the HRC receives no public comment.

Committee welcomes new member, Jessica Livingston.

2. Approval of the agenda:

Committee discusses moving closing business to before the walking tour work session on agenda, as well as initiating a resolution of thanks to former HRC member Ellen Wagner for years of service on the committee.

Dede Smith moves to adopt the amended agenda. Margaret O'Bryant seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Approval of meeting notes:

Smith moves to approve June 11, 2021 HRC meeting notes. Kay Slaughter seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously, with Sally Duncan abstaining.

4. Planning Engagement for Slave Auction Block site:

Before public engagement meetings in the fall, HRC should map out more concrete process. Create an online form to generate mailing list and collect feedback.

Committee and staff discuss request for proposal (RFP) for redesign of downtown parks, now on hold. Staff will investigate status of RFP, and committee considers writing a letter to Council to encourage reinitiating parks redesign process and incorporating slave auction block memorialization into RFP.

Committee members identify the Memorial for Enslaved Laborers at UVA as a model for engagement and collaboration between designers and descendants.

Members propose engaging Mabel Wilson, Columbia University architecture professor and part of the UVA memorial design team, for a work session.

Genevieve Keller moves that the committee ask staff to investigate hiring Mabel Wilson on a sole-source contract for a work session with members of the HRC and other stakeholders to explore options holistically for the downtown area that might be the subject of an RFP for redesign, and specifically to address the issue of the auctions of enslaved people and other transfers in the courthouse area. Phase 1 of this contract should be a Zoom work session in which participants discuss future process and lessons learned from the UVA memorial. Slaughter seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously.

5. Burley High School National Register Plaque Discussion:

Staff gives background on the Burley High School National Register nomination.

Smith moves to appropriate requested funds for a National Register bronze plaque. Slaughter seconds motion.

Keller proposes that the committee ask Albemarle County to contribute to the plaque costs, given Burley's history as both a City and County school.

Vote taken on previously seconded motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Keller moves that the HRC send a friendly letter to the appropriate body in Albemarle County, informing them that the committee has taken this action and invites them to share in the cost if they desire.

The motion receives no seconds.

6. Walking Tour Map Work Session:

Walking tour subcommittee updates HRC on talks with designer for map. Subcommittee will get estimates for design and printing maps to determine next steps.

7. Staff Updates:

Staff updates HRC on proposed courthouse design (reviewed at July 2021 Board of Architectural Review meeting), status of CODE Building construction and need for Vinegar Hill Park signage, and potential use of bus stops for hanging interpretive posters.

8. Coordinate Agenda for August HRC Meeting:

Keller moves that the HRC ask staff to draft resolution thanking Ellen Wagner for years of service on the HRC. Rachel Lloyd seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously.