

MEETING NOTES

Charlottesville Historic Resources Committee^[1]_{SEP}

Friday, June 11, 2021; 11:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Remote meeting via Zoom

HRC Members present

Rachel Lloyd, Chair

Phil Varner, Co-vice-chair

Kay Slaughter

Jalane Schmidt

Genevieve Keller

Dede Smith

William Clay III

Heather Hill

Margaret O'Bryant

HRC Members not present

Sally Duncan, Co-vice-chair

Ellen Wagner

Staff present

Jeff Werner

Robert Watkins

1. Call to order: Chair Rachel Lloyd calls the meeting to order. Lloyd opens the floor up to public comment but the HRC receives none.
2. Approval of the agenda: Committee members request that the scheduled discussion about Confederate statue disposition be removed from the agenda and propose that the time be used instead for a discussion about digital scans of the statues.

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

3. Approval of meeting notes: Keller moves to approve May 14, 2021 meeting notes. Smith seconds motion. With Lloyd abstaining, motion passes unanimously.
4. Planning Engagement for Slave Auction Block site: Jalane Schmidt updates committee on outreach and planning for Slave Auction Block site. Committee members and staff held two virtual meetings with between 15-20 descendants since the May HRC meeting. Highlights from the meetings include:
 - Holding multiple meetings on different dates and times
 - Committee urged to be patient with the process, not to rush things
 - Descendants want to be in conversation from the get-go, not brought in at later stage
 - Sentiment expressed for combination of memorialization and education
 - Developing an online form that people can fill out with feedback
 - The idea of “voice” is very significant for any memorialization effort
 - An exhibit (maybe elsewhere) that would culminate from a research project about the sale of people at Court Square

Community member Diane Brown Townes joins meeting to add that it's critical to emphasize that enslaved people were people first, and that anything erected at the site will likely be permanent.

Jeff Werner cautions that City Council has not officially set aside funding for a monument and recommends that the committee develop a formal schedule and planning process.

Lloyd recommends that when such a plan is developed, descendant engagement is included at every milestone along the way.

Robert Watkins recommends that the committee use the coming months to develop a more robust schedule and scope of work, and plan to resume in-person engagement in the autumn.

5. Updates from Walking Tour Map Subcommittee: Committee determines that they should retain a designer for the map moving forward. Subcommittee will have a work session for the map at the July meeting.
6. Digital scans of statues : UVA Library is interested in in digitally scanning the Lee and Jackson statues, as well as the Sacagawea, Lewis & Clark statue.

Kay Slaughter moves to request digital scans of the statues from the library. Margaret O'Bryant seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously.

7. Committee Leadership Discussion: Lloyd indicates that she would like to step down as HRC chair but remain on the committee.

Smith nominates Phil Varner as HRC chair. Heather Hill seconds motion. Motion passes unanimously.

8. Staff Updates: Staff updates HRC on Board of Architectural Review discussion over statues removal at May meeting.

Staff also confirms that the City received grant funds for the Downtown Mall study.

Finally, staff asks if committee members are aware of potential cemetery near Jackson-Via Elementary School.

9. Coordinate Agenda for July HRC Meeting: [12:50, 5 minutes]

10. Announcements: [12:55, 5 minutes]

Staff announces Pen Park Cemetery talk at Jefferson-Madison Regional Library.