

Agenda
City of Charlottesville
Historic Resources Committee
Regular Meeting
September 12, 2025 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
NDS Conference Room



HRC Members

Julie Basic (Chair)	Caden Martz	Elizabeth Shillue
Bill Bergen	Matthew Morrill	Dede Smith (ex off)
Denny Berry (Vice-Chair)	Lucy Pola	Lloyd Snook (Council, ad hoc)
Olivia Brown (ACHS, ex off)	Kate Richardson (staff)	Jeff Werner (lead staff)
	Jalane Schmidt	Richard Guy Wilson

1. Call to order [10:00]
 - Introductions
 - Thank you to Gennie Keller for service
2. Approval of the agenda
3. August meeting review and minutes [Attached to this agenda.]
4. Public Comment* [10:10, 5 minutes]
5. Chair Update [10:15, 15 minutes]
 - Council meeting September 2, 2025
6. Mall 50th Anniversary 2026 [10:30, 20 minutes]
 - Updates
 - Committee discussion and planning
7. BPAC Walk Updates [10:50, 5 minutes]
 - Reminder- walk for JPA is September 14th at 1pm
 - October – D. Smith (10th & Page)
 - November – J. Basic (Venable)
 - December – D. Berry (N. Downtown)
8. HRC Budget [10:55, 10 minutes]
 - Budgetary discussion and priorities
9. Joint ACHS Lecture Series [11:05, 20 minutes]
 - Update – O. Brown
 - City tours availability/information
10. Staff Updates [11:25, 30 minutes]
 - Staff questions/discussion
 - Decision on Wertebaker House demolition appeal

- Map reprint
- Honorary street name and plaque request - Mel's
- Swan Tavern artifact assemblage update
- Proposed IPP – 801 West Street
- Review of surveys for the Historic Downtown Walking Tour Map

11. Announcements [11:55, 5 minutes]

- Upcoming items of interest to HRC.

6. Adjourn: [12:00 PM]

Mission Statement

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The Charlottesville Historic Resources Committee achieves its mission through:

- Education
- Public commemoration (historic plaques, signs, markers, and civic festivals and ceremonies)
- Publications (maps, brochures, tour books, and digital media)
- Public meetings (planning sessions, workshops, and lectures)
- And through other means.

* Regarding public comment(s). The HRC values community participation and input and welcomes public comments at meetings. At the beginning of each meeting, not more than 10 minutes will be allowed for the introduction of any guests and public comments. Speakers may speak for a maximum of two-minutes and shall begin by identifying their name and address. The intent is to allow public input; not initiate a dialogue or debate with the committee. Subsequent to this meeting segment, by majority approval the HRC may amend the agenda to allow further discussion; however, the motion should also establish a time limit for that discussion. Additionally, prior to adjourning--and applying the conditions above--the HRC may allow a period not to exceed five minutes for public comment.

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Minutes
City of Charlottesville
Historic Resources Committee
Regular Meeting
August 8, 2025 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
NDS Conference Room



HRC Members [~~not present~~]

Julie Basic (Chair)	Caden Martz	Elizabeth Shillue
Bill Bergen	Matthew Morrill	Dede Smith (ex off)
Denny Berry (Vice-Chair)	Luey Pola	Lloyd Snook (Council, ad hoc)
Olivia Brown (ACHS, ex off)	Kate Richardson (staff)	Jeff Werner (lead staff)
Gennie Keller	Jalane Schmidt	Richard Guy Wilson

1. Call to order [10:00]
 - Gennie Keller acting chair for this meeting.
2. Approval of the agenda Motion: B. Bergen; Second: M. Morrill Vote: 5-0 (Additional voting member had not yet arrived.)
3. July meeting review/minutes Motion: B. Bergen; Second: G. Keller Vote: 5-0 (Additional voting member had not yet arrived.)
4. Public Comment* [10:10, 5 minutes] Cassie Ivey (Director of Visitors & Community Engagement with CACVB) greeted the committee and introduced herself. No comment beyond simply attending to listen. G. Keller indicated she was welcome to share thoughts or provide insights during the group's discussions.
5. Mall 50th Anniversary 2026 [10:15, 30 minutes]
 - Gennie Keller, ~~Luey Pola~~- update.
Overview: celebrations focused on collecting memories and to provide aspirational content. Two main components: oral histories and lecture(s).
 - Committee discussion
ACHS- O. Brown to assist HRC for joint kick-off lecture (tentatively planned for Thursday, June 25, 2026); request to be looped-in on staff emails to Beth Meyer for coordination and support.
Vice-chair D. Berry corroborating with public relations professional to further develop survey questions (ie: memory recollections); A primary concern is that focus groups be created to ensure inclusion of stakeholders both past and present (and future?). Efforts should involve multiple media types and platforms.
Questions from O. Brown & staff: When will the Committee and Friends of Downtown create/draft these focus groups? Are work sessions planned to hammer out details? [TBD]
Idea: Capture multiple generations by coordinating with local school reunions.

Send any/all ideas to D. Berry.

6. BPAC Walk Updates [10:45, 10 minutes]

- Review route for Greenbrier walk – Sunday 8/10 @ 9AM.
September – C. Martz (JPA)
October – D. Smith (10th & Page neighborhood)
November – J. Basic (Venable)
December – D. Berry (N. Downtown)

Members discussed the success of this collaboration, but it was noted with disappointment that HRC's contribution to the BPAC walks was not recognized during an announcement made by City Council member N. Oschrin. Perhaps BPAC/Transportation planning staff could ensure HRC's efforts are recognized consistently moving forward as committee members are providing significant volunteer time compiling the neighborhood histories, creating the flyers (Chair) and participating on the day.

7. Downtown Walking Tour Map Reprint [10:55, 10 minutes]

- Update on re-print – D. Smith
Map revisions currently with Anne Chestnut for completion of update. Group concurs printing 1500 will be adequate. Printing takes little turnaround time.
- Dispersal locations review.
General review of previous years assessments for distribution; aiming to hand-out bulk packs during September HRC meeting.
- Volunteers for distribution.
New maps to be handed out in September.
Idea: Staff could reach out to UVA representatives (J. Werner suggested Rachel Lloyd) about map placement at the visitor's desk in the Rotunda.
Idea: Placement in UVA bookstores?
Idea: HRC should act on printing QR code "business card" for distribution to restaurants/bars/café. This can be accomplished quickly via Vistaprint or similar vendor. [Volunteer needed to design and send mock-up w/ estimate to staff for purchase order - TBD.]

8. City Council Workplan Update [11:05, 20 minutes]

- Presentation review with members. [Sep 2, 2025 Council mtg.]
NDS Director K. Brown and Deputy City Manager J. Freas have approved HRC's presentation to Council; they are happy HRC has this opportunity to provide an overview of their accomplishments.
Committee members encourage all who are available to attend the September 2nd 4:00pm work session. The HRC presentation is scheduled for the 4:30 time slot.

9. HRC Budget [11:25, 10 minutes]

- Review of expenses and budget
Staff provided hard copies of prior expenses and tentative budgeted items for FY26 (attached to minutes).

10. Joint ACHS Lecture Series [11:35, 15 minutes]

- Update – O. Brown
The first lecture (re: Brown’s Cove topography and history) was hugely successful, more than 100+ people were in attendance. A video recording is available on the ACHS YouTube channel. (It is possible to watch each lecture on Facebook Live-link provided on the event’s FB post.)
Next event is Wednesday September 24th @ 6pm in Lane Auditorium with a reception to follow. The Highland lecture will be given by Sara Bon-Harper. These are free events but please register online via the ACHS website. A planning session for upcoming quarterly lectures in 2026 is in development- stay tuned and please coordinate with O. Brown to share ideas or to be involved.
- City tours availability/information
Returning ACHS tours: Court Square, Downtown, Black Barbers of Cville.
Staff will provide early Court Square (*Charlottesville Day One Project*) sketches and renderings to ACHS (and B. Bergen) as visual aids for that tour.

11. Staff Updates [11:50, 10 minutes]

- Feedback on HRC webpage [previous request, no additional content provided by HRC at this time]
- Staff questions/discussion
Idea: List locations where the HRC’s Walking Tour map is available.

12. Announcements [12:10, 10 minutes]

- Upcoming items of interest to HRC.
On Saturday September 27th at 2PM at Lighthouse Studio, Preservation Piedmont, and ACHS will host a documentary film screening of *Georgia O’Keeffe: the Brightness of Light*. Reception to follow.

Friday September 5th at 2PM at JMRL, the Swanson 75th Anniversary commemoration will be held which includes guest speakers and reception.

G. Keller has resigned from the HRC effective 8.8.2025 due to conflicts serving on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Ms. Keller provided a quiet yet sentimental goodbye, stating how proud she is of the Historic Resources Committee for all their accomplishments, noting how far the group has come from its earliest days; she has been honored to volunteer her time to this committee.

Note from J. Werner: The demolition appeal will be heard before City Council at the regular meeting on September 2nd.

Staff and the group discussed several of the larger development projects being heard by the BAR this month (pre-application conferences).

Introduction of Matt Morrill, new HRC member as of July 1, 2025. He resigned from the Board of Zoning Appeals to maintain his status on the committee.

6. Adjourn: G. Keller adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.

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