

HISTORIC RESOURCE TASK FORCE
August 13, 2003
3:30 p.m.
BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Discussion of 400th Anniversary
3. Discussion of Old jail Development
4. Discussion of State Markers
5. Other Business

NOTE: You can park in the Market Street Parking Garage. Bring your ticket into the office with you to be stamped for two hours free.

*Historic Resource Task Force
Minutes
July 9, 2003
3:30 p.m. Basement Conference Room
City Hall*

Present:

Winston Churchill Gooding
Helena Devereux
Mark Beliles
Genevieve Keller
Douglas day

Others Present:

Satyendra Singh Huja

Minutes:

The minutes of May 14, 2003 on page 3 delete “with eradication and that students played a role in preparing the Jefferson School marker information”; also correct the spelling of “Faulkner”. These changes were moved by Mr. Churchill and seconded by Ms. Devereux. Approved Unanimously

Mr. Huja gave an update on the historic court square project indicating that the bids were open on July 1, 2003 and three bids were received. The low bid was off by \$275,000. The City Manager has agreed to recommend use of Economic Development funds for these additional funds. The bids have been sent to the VDOT board and will be considered by them on July 18, 2003. If the bid is accepted by VDPT there will be groundbreaking ceremony on August 6, 2003 at 11:30 a.m. This ceremony will celebrate three different issues. First the groundbreaking of the project, 2nd the unveiling of 7 local historic makers around Court Square and 3rd the 200th anniversary of court square. The Task Force discussed and agreed upon the following program for the ceremony on August 6th.

Opening remarks – Meredith Richards (hostess of ceremony)
Presentation of plan for court square – Satyendra S. Huja
Comments by Mayor Cox
Comments by Mayor of Pleven Bulgaria

Comments on 200th anniversary – Mark Beliles
Unveiling of 6 local historic markers – Mark Beliles
Visit by 3 American presidents – Jefferson, Madison, Monroe
Groundbreaking ceremony
Walking tour of Court Square – Joy Perry

The Task Force discussed the people to be invited which should include, City Council, Albemarle County Board, Original Court Square Committee, BAR, City Manager, County Executive, Lead Team, Neighborhood Property owners/representatives, neighborhood residents, Judges, City / County commonwealth attorney's, city / county sheriff, North downtown neighborhood association and press.

Mr. Huja indicated that with assistance from Helena Devereux the wording of the Jefferson School State Historic Marker was forwarded to the State Historic Resources Department and was approved by them on June 18th. The sign will be located on the corner of Commerce and 4th Street. It was agreed that we would hold an unveiling ceremony in September. Ms. Devereux stated that some people are not happy with the wording of the marker, because it does not focus totally on local history.

The state has also approved the Edgar Allan Poe state historic marker at UVA. The unveiling will be coordinated with them. They are paying half of the cost for this marker.

Mr. Huja stated that 7 local historic markers around the Court Square will be placed during the week of July 14 and officially unveiled on August 6th.

Mark Beliles stated that he went to a meeting about court square developments and that the old jail and jailers house will be saved but there is no current plan for its use. He stated that the task force has made a proposal and that this should be discussed at the next meeting.

Mark Beliles also proposed a state historic marker for Pen Park and distributed the wording for that. (See attached)

Mark Beliles spoke about the 400th anniversary of Virginia in 2007, indicating that he has spoken with Amy Ritchie state coordinator for this project. There will be a meeting on July 18th organized by Monticello and someone should attend on our behalf. He also commented that he had some literature on this event and will be happy to share it.

Douglas day stated that the National Folk Festival would most likely be in Richmond. He also spoke about the peace garden behind McIntire Library or in front of the old jail. He stated hat on August 29th there would be a benefit relating to the Belmont movie. He further indicated that the Historical Society has acquired a photo collection of Rip Payne from 1940 – 1970.

The next meeting will be August 13, 2003 at 3:30 in the Basement Conference Room of City Hall.

Penn Park

The tract of land known as Penn Park was settled by the Lynch family in the 1740s and named after William Penn - the Quaker clergyman that founded Pennsylvania. This Quaker family eventually moved to what is today Lynchburg, and the property was acquired by Dr. George Gilmer during the era of the American Revolution. Gilmer was a prominent political leader who organized the local minutemen and also led the local committee of correspondence. He also represented the county in the state legislature. Penn Park was then purchased by Col. John Harvie who represented the area in the Continental Congress and in that capacity became one of America's Founding Fathers when he signed the *Articles of Confederation* in 1777. He also offered his land west of Charlottesville to be a place for housing the British and Hessian prisoners of war brought here after their surrender at Saratoga (thus the name today of *Barracks Road*). William Wirt – an attorney who eventually gained fame as U. S. Attorney General, a presidential candidate, and an author – also lived there for a while. The Harvie and Gilmer family cemeteries are on the property today.