

**Historic Resource Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2007
NDS Conference Room
12:00 Noon**

Members present: Mark Beliles, Mary Hill Caperton, Genevieve Keller, Douglas Day, Ingrid *** and Helena Devereux
Staff present: Mary Joy Scala, Melissa Celi
Guests: Jennifer Tidwell and Chris Williams

Actions:

- **Approve October 2, 2007 minutes with minor corrections.**

To do:

- **Mark will write a new marker text (in lieu of Pen Park marker) that focuses more on the individual people.**

Meeting began with a discussion of past minutes. Corrections were made to the October minutes. **Minutes Approved.**

Discussion was held about the Lewis and Clark monument and Sacagawea's position on it. City Council would like the HRC to create a new marker. Jennifer Tidwell and a coalition of about 25 citizens would like to see the statue contextualized. She believes that, given when the statues were created, it is understandable why Sacagawea is being subjugated. Ms. Tidwell commented on the lack of Native American representation in American statuary. She does not wish to see the monument destroyed, just wants something to provide an updated version with our modern view of history. Ms. Tidwell would like to see a marker, but also something more visual like a newly commissioned piece of art, perhaps through the Art in Place process.

There was a discussion of Sacagawea's current placement on the monument and the subjective nature of its offensiveness. Genevieve recalled viewing Sacagawea with awe and inspiration as a young girl. There was also a discussion about the appropriateness of commenting on art. Instead of documenting the art, it was suggested to perhaps document it as a site of controversy. There was a consensus to try and encourage a discussion of our history, and whether a permanent and stationary plaque is the best way to do so. Some believed the best way to respond is to create new art because art is an expression of certain segments of the public at a certain time. In this way art becomes an artifact. It is believed that contextualizing art is the same as interpreting it which is not the purpose of the HRC.

Because City Council asked for a marker, and because it is something that is relatively doable in both cost and time, it is believed a marker would be a good first step. Other ideas included something like the free speech monument that would facilitate discussion or including direct quotes from Keck, Clark, McIntire, and the Shoshone. (Ms. Tidwell

and Mr. Williams leave). It is believed that putting anything up is a symbolic statement in itself. The Historic Society could do a sculpture tour like the African American tour they offer. Perhaps audio to accompany the marker would be appropriate. Some suggested having short bulleted quotes instead of paragraph text.

Some members expressed fear that interpreting one marker would open the door for the need to interpret all markers. The consensus believed that new artwork that is appropriate and representative of today's views would be a better response than interpreting the past. If a marker was created, it should be factual and not apologetic. A suggestion was made that the Historic Society create an exhibit that examines what our monuments say about our past. There was also a discussion about whether the Charlottesville HRC should even be memorializing someone who never came to the city.

The members next discussed other business. Mary Joy visited the Old Jail and said that they will be going to the BAR for approval of stabilization measures for the courtyard wall. Genevieve has created a memo for all of the neighborhoods introducing the HRC and encouraging new members. A brief discussion about the Pen Park marker was held. There was concern about mentioning the Lynch family and the location of the cemetery. **Mark will write a new marker text that focuses more on the individual people.** There was a brief discussion about the possibility of changing the meeting time to encourage attendance and accommodate Winston Gooding's new work schedule.

Meeting adjourned 1:15