

**Historic Resource Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2007
609 E. Market Street Suite 114
12:00 Noon**

Members present: Mark Beliles, Genevieve Keller, Mary Hill Caperton, Ingrid Smyer-Kelly, and Helena Devereux

Staff present: Mary Joy Scala, Melissa Celii

Members began discussing the display case in the Transit Station which is still empty. Mary Hill really wants to begin moving forward on the display. She said that foam board and fabric which Velcro will stick to are still needed. Mary Joy suggested placing a sign in the display case saying that a Historic Resource Committee display will be coming soon, until a proper display is produced. All members agreed. Genevieve suggested the sign could be printed on an historic photograph. Mary Hill suggested placing a few pictures of perhaps historic markers in the case as well. Melissa asked if the case is currently locked. Helena said that Tamika Harris at the Transit Station is the person to ask about unlocking the case and putting something in there. Mary Hill suggested for the sake of getting a display up quickly to just put something up and then work on making it look nice and professional. Genevieve suggested creating a template or layout that can be taken to the historic society, so displays can be easily created and switched. Ingrid suggested using a colorful, eye-catching background. Mary Hill said background needs to be a fabric which Velcro can stick to. The case needs to be measured to figure out sizes of foam board and how to get things to fit inside the case. Helena said she would talk to Tamika to see how the case opens.

Mary Hill said that Studio Art on West Main Street has foam board. The entire case measures 48" x 78", but foam board should be a couple inches shorter to allow wiggle room when placing it in the case. Studio Art only has 48" x 96" pieces of foam board, so exact measurements are needed before it could be cut down to size. Genevieve suggested creating another foam board for markup in the historic society. Helena suggested having an extra piece of fabric cut to size that could easily be rolled up instead. Mary Hill showed members a fabric swatch and suggested finding some sort of similar upholstery fabric. Helena said she would be available to go fabric shopping later in the week. Mary Hill stressed the importance of making sure that any fabric chosen is one that Velcro can stick to. Ingrid suggested felt material, but that it may be hard to find in neutral colors. Mary Joy and Helena said they would go to the Transit Station on Friday morning to measure the case and go fabric shopping. Mary Hill said that the photos at the historic society are already mounted on Velcro. Mary Joy said that the Committee should strive for the display to look like it was professionally done. Ingrid suggested using a light blue or royal blue background color.

Mark officially began the meeting at 12:25. Because members were already discussing items under 5b of the agenda, Mark asked if there were any other news on exhibits or markers. Mary Hill said she has been in contact with Betsy Tremain and talked about the

Pen Park text. Mary Hill said that Betsy said the name origin in the text is untrue. She said that the park is named after an estate near Bristol, England called Pen Park. The source of this information is a book by George Gilmer. Mark said that Betsy is wrong because he did all the previous research on the text and found that the Lynch family, who previously owned the property, were Quakers and named it in honor of William Penn. The Lynches owned the property before Gilmer did and therefore, the name Penn Park preceded Gilmer. Mary Hill then suggested that the marker text should be changed to mention that the Lynches were Quakers. Mark said his sources are from the historic society and that Tremain needs to either document the sources of her argument or just accept the marker text. Mary Hill said this was the only major change to the Pen Park text.

Mary Hill next brought up the McGuffey marker text and mentioned Mark made a few slight changes. Genevieve asked where the marker/plaque will be. Mary Hill said it will be sent in a bronze paver in front of Pavilion IX at UVA. Mary Joy asked if there are any alternative locations. Helena suggested perhaps by McGuffey School or Park. Mary Hill said that does not make sense because those were just named after McGuffey, but not associated with him during his lifetime. Ingrid suggested in back of Pavilion IX in the garden near his tree. Mary Hill said the plaque would be more visible by the Lawn. Helena asked if this is to be a state or local marker. Mary Hill said it would be local and cost around \$400. Mark asked how many words the current text is and if it's possible to get it to fewer than 100 words. Mary Hill said it does not matter how many words it is if it's a local marker, but that fewer words would allow for a larger text size.

Mark suggested that if the text was kept to 100 words it could be made a state marker if the Committee wanted it to be. Ingrid said the text should be reworded so it does not sound like McGuffey had an office outside. Genevieve suggested the text be sent out to all the members digitally so members could make changes to it. Mark suggested making it a state marker because McGuffey had national significance and maybe place it in front of the site of the 1st Presbyterian Church on Market Street where he was a pastor. Mary Hill said that if it was a state marker it would have to be less than 100 words but the words 'Pavilion IX at UVA' and 'at this site' etc would have to be added if it was located at Market Street. Genevieve supports making it a state marker and the location because it would cover two purposes of informing people of the location of the Presbyterian Church and encouraging pedestrian purposes and economic development downtown. She also said this option makes sense since UVA does not want anymore markers. Ingrid believed it would have to be located somewhere at UVA, but Helena said it is very likely that they will not want it there. Mark said UVA has their own guidelines for such matters, and Genevieve believed it should be up to UVA to determine how to interpret and present their own history.

Mary Hill supported the idea and suggested the Committee do what needs to be done to proceed with the project. Mark suggested the Committee make it a state marker and work on approving the text. Once the text is approved Mary Joy could send it along to the appropriate state official. Mary Joy said she does not want another marker in a sidewalk downtown because there is already too much 'junk' there. Genevieve suggested

just approving the text with a site to be determined later. Mark suggested maybe just placing it somewhere near the site of the church. Many members suggested Lee Park. Mary Hill pointed out that Lee Park is not going anywhere. Genevieve was hesitant because the Committee may later decide that they want to put something else in the park, but would be unable to because of the marker. She suggested maybe placing it near the County office building because numerous markers exist that have no direct correlation to their site. Mark said that it should be placed somewhere important like Lee park because there is unlikely to be many more nationally significant figures to get markers in Charlottesville. Mark asked if there were anymore potential state markers for this year and many members suggested Pen Park. Ingrid asked what the State's role is in the decision making process and most members agreed they play a large role and it is a nitpicky process that looks at such issues as traffic and visibility.

Mark called for agreement to make the McGuffey marker a State Historic markers and it was unanimously approved.

Mary Hill proposed to check on the origin of the name Pen Park and send it to Betsy Tremain so that marker can move forward too.

Mark then asked for an update on the display case because he missed the previous discussion. Mary Joy said that the Committee will be getting foam board and fabric for the display case and set up a transportation exhibit soon.

Mark then called for approval of minutes from May and June. Mary Hill discussed some errors found in the May minutes. Helena called for approval of the May minutes to be put off until errors are corrected and because not all members had a copy of the minutes to look over. All agreed. Mark then called for approval of the June minutes. Helena pointed out the Genevieve's name was misspelled. Genevieve said she wanted her name to appear as Genevieve and not Gennie for posterity's sake. Members unanimously approved the June minutes.

Mark next moved to Item 2 on the agenda, the proposed annual event. Mary Joy said she spoke with the person in charge of the Pavilion, Kirby Hutto, but he said he won't know until 3 weeks before the event if it is available. She suggested the Herman Key recreation center at the armory building as a back up. The only problem with this would be the publicity leading up to the event. Members discussed how much advance publicity is needed. Mark said that back up or rain locations are not usually publicized anyway and that the main location would be Court Square. Mary Joy asked who will bring the chairs for the band and audience to sit on. Mark said Committee needs to consider where and how people will sit at Court Square. Ingrid asked how many people are expected to attend and pointed out that smaller spaces make small crowds look bigger. Mark said that could happen at Court Square. Ingrid also said she thinks chairs should be provided for guests. Mark said he has access to a big tent if it is needed. He also confirmed that the date of the event is October 6. Mark presented a tentative program/ agenda for the festival. Mary Hill asked if each booth is responsible for bringing their own tables. Mark suggested using the tables at the meeting hall for the sake of uniformity.

There was a discussion about whether food vendors should be present. Mark felt that for a two hour event it was not worth it to have them. Mark asked Mary Joy if Piedmont Area Preservation Alliance (PAPA) seemed favorable about going forward with this event. Mary Joy said she wanted to wait until plans were firm before discussing the event with PAPA. She also said she likes the idea of people bringing their own tables because it is less work and responsibility for Committee members.

Mark asked if there are any charges for reserving locations for rain dates, and Mary Joy said she would look into that. Mark said he would meet with other PAPA members to discuss the event and Mary Hill called to have Mark make contacts with PAPA. Mary Joy brought up that this is different from the board member meeting of PAPA like the one held last year. She said that the proposed event is more for the sake of the public. Mary Hill said she believed PAPA members would want to have exposure. Mark thought that this event was the PAPA board meeting. Genevieve suggested combining the events. Mary Hill said that last year's event was very different and that the board meeting and public event proposed are two different things. Ingrid said that the difference should be that one is to work with the public and get them involved with the different groups and the other is to get board members to talk with each other. She also mentioned some other organizations and events they have put on. (Mary Hill left) Genevieve made the point that if the events were combined it would guarantee PAPA members would show up. Mark said that's what he thought the event would be. Mary Joy said she thought this event was only meant to be a public event. Ingrid agreed.

Mark said he thinks the board should be the advertisers, and Ingrid thought the board members should put up their own booths and stuff. Mark said that if the event is not part of PAPA and they are not required to go then no board members will show up. Genevieve agreed with Mark.

Mark said he feels as if it may be too soon for only a public event and that maybe the Committee should put the idea on hold. Mary Joy said that PAPA is still working on writing its bylaws, but maybe it could be set up so one group is in charge of events each year. Ingrid thinks it's good to get all the groups together in a more formal way. Mark said maybe a more organized meeting with the board is necessary and thinks the event should be carried out down the road. Ingrid suggested if this is done, the future event could be a bigger and more prominent event. Mark said the board needs to be informed that the Committee will not be going forward with the event. Genevieve said she felt it was a shame to not carry on, but maybe the band could still play some of the music the Committee purchased for the event. Helena said it would accomplish the Committee's goal of education through the use of music. Mary Joy said she would contact the band and let them know the event has been postponed.

Mark said because the meeting was already running late if there are any other pressing matters that need to be discussed today. Genevieve and Helena reiterated their support for the festival and thought it was a good idea, but that the timing didn't work. Mark said the event would work if all the groups were a part of it. Mary Joy suggested that it could

be done next year. Mark said he could present the idea to the steering committee and volunteer to do it next year. Ingrid suggested the Paramount Theater could be a good place for an event. Members agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20.