

**Historic Resource Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2007
609 E. Market Street Suite 114
12:00 Noon**

Members present: Mark Beliles, Mary Hill Caperton, and Helena Devereux
Staff present: Mary Joy Scala, Melissa Celii

Meeting called to order at 12:15

Meeting began with a discussion of the May Minutes. Helena found a few mistakes which were addressed and corrected. There was brief discussion about historic markers and who pays for them. Mary Hill suggested Melissa look through Huja's old papers to find out more information about the local marker process. Helena said that perhaps the information exists on-line, perhaps on VDHR's website. Mark said that previously the process involved a committee doing the leg work on a marker and Huja would then approve it and carry out the next steps himself and take it to be made. Helena believes it would be a good idea to have the process written down somewhere so interested community members can refer to them. All agreed it was smart to put information about the marker process on the website. A brief discussion on who pays for the markers followed.

Members next discussed the municipal band and the music that was to be played at the fall event. No one was sure if the band had already begun to practice the music. There was a discussion on minutes in general and what should be included in them and should they be rewritten to show follow through? Consensus was that minutes should only say what was done, and not say what happened after the meeting; future actions would show up in future discussions.

A motion was put forth to approve the May minutes as corrected on the condition that one other member (most likely Genevieve Keller) also approved them in order to have a quorum. The motion was unanimously approved.

Members next discussed the July minutes. Changes and questions were addressed and corrected. Mary Hill wondered why Genevieve had said at the July meeting she would resend out the marker text digitally for changes when this had been done already in the past. Mary Joy suggested the text be sent out one more time in order to revise it to meet the state's 100 word maximum. There was brief discussion of the dropped fall event. Mark clarified that the event is not being scrapped entirely, just postponed for a while. A motion to approve the minutes as amended subject to other committee members approval was put forth. The motion was unanimously approved.

Members next discussed the transit station exhibit space. Mary Hill said that it is time to start thinking about the next exhibit. Helena said she has a list and that the subcommittee responsible for the display should meet again. There was brief discussion about how

often the exhibit should be changed with thoughts varying from every couple of months to a more semester-type schedule. The current transportation exhibit is on display and Mary Joy shared pictures of it taken on her cell phone. The temporary sign that had been in the case is now at the historic society. There was a discussion on placing a permanent sign in the case about who sponsored the exhibit. All members agreed that HRC member names should not be part of the sign. Mary Hill mentioned that perhaps Douglas could have something made to match the exhibit. Mary Joy suggested giving credit of the exhibit to the Historical Society and giving the Historic Resource Committee credit for sponsoring the exhibit. Mark suggested making two signs: one permanent sign for HRC and one to say where the materials came from which could be changed with each exhibit as needed. There was a discussion on where to place the signs within the display case. Mary Hill mentioned the need to take into consideration the higher up in the case, the bigger things should be to be easier to see. Thanks were given to Mary Hill for getting the current exhibit up. Helena said that when she went to see the display she noticed two people stop and look at it. Mary Hill said her friend Alice Marshall of the Second Yard donated the material for the background, and she would write a Thank You note on behalf of the HRC.

Mark asked if there was any other business under the public commemoration committee. Helena said she will send an email to Mary Hill with a list of other archived exhibits and exhibit ideas. Mary Hill suggested going to the historic society to see the other exhibits. Helena also said she will put something in writing about the marker procedure. Mary Joy will put whatever text Helena writes onto the website.

Mark said in regards to the Pen Park marker, he still needs to follow up with Betsy about the Quaker/Gilmore reference. He will find his sources at the Historic Society and will email it out to everyone, and then perhaps at the next meeting the details can be finalized and sent to the state.

There was a discussion about the McGuffey marker location. Mary Hill suggested it should be somewhere near the church site and said it does not matter how many markers are at the park. Mark agreed that that is what Lee Park is there for, and the marker should be placed there. There was brief discussion about the Civil War Trails marker currently at Lee Park and the members' general dislike for it. Helena said that she has heard some people say there are already too many markers around town. Mary Hill said the state should decide where it goes. Mark was wondering who said there are too many markers, considering the HRC was created out of public outcry for the need for commemoration. Helena said the comment she heard was in reference to the Civil War Trails marker. A discussion followed on where markers should be placed in general. Members expressed their preference that markers be placed in a location relevant to the marker text, and not just where it is convenient to place them. Lee Park makes sense for the McGuffey marker because the church he preached at is catty-cornered to the site. Mary Hill asked if Parks and Recreation Department needs to be contacted. Mark was not sure if they were for Court Square markers. This could have been a step Huja did. Mary Joy asked if City Council is involved at all. She said she will talk to Mike Svetz and ask if it is acceptable to put the marker in Lee Park. There was brief discussion about state guidelines and the

state's power. A motion was made to approve a marker location at the southeast corner of Lee Park subject to other member approval put forth. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mary Joy next gave an update on the Piedmont Area Preservation Association (PAPA) and their fall meeting. She said the meeting is scheduled for September 13 at Blenheim sometime in the evening. It will be similar to the one held last year at Cloverfields. There is no speaker planned yet. Mary Joy hopes that Brian Broadus will have the basic bylaws for the group written by then. They will basically say that one group in PAPA will host a meeting and one public event each year, and the bylaws will set up dues for each organization to pay for said meeting and event. The purpose of the bylaws is for organization, not to create a new 501(c)3. Mark asked when these bylaws will be circulated, but Mary Joy was not sure. Mark said he will be out of the country during the meeting so another group member should go to represent the HRC. Mary Joy said whoever goes will need to briefly say what the group has done the last year. Mary Hill asked what has been done. Mary Joy said things to mention would be the transit station exhibit, the new committee structure, the website, and the new marker texts. Helena said she would also be unable to attend. Mary Hill said she could do it, but wishes to have a list of what has been done so she has something to discuss. Helena suggested Genevieve may also be able to attend. Mark said that hopefully by the time of the meeting the marker texts will have been submitted to the State. Helena also added that the HRC has identified a number of issues and are working on addressing items on that list.

Mary Joy also said that last year the HRC donated \$300 in food to the event and asked if the HRC would be willing to do so again. All agreed to let Mary Joy donate an appropriate amount on the HRC's behalf not to exceed \$300. Mary Hill said she would represent the HRC and speak at the event and asked others to give her ideas on what to talk about. Members suggested she should focus on the transit station display since she did most of the work on it.

Mark asked for any other business. Mary Joy asked members to start to think of and ask people to become new members. Mark said they would need to be approved by City Council, but recommended by the HRC.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10