

MINUTES

CHARLOTTESVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE

*Monday January 14, 2012 * 11:00 am – Noon * NDS Conference Room * 610 East Market Street*

Members Present

Edwina St. Rose
Melanie Miller, Co-Chair
Helena Devereux

Winston Churchill Gooding
Mary Hill Caperton
Genevieve Keller

Staff

Mary Joy Scala
Kristin Rourke
Guest: Evelyn Mason

Members Absent

Steven Meeks
Mark Beliles

Meeting Called to Order at 11:05 am

Approval of Minutes

Genevieve Keller moved to approve the October minutes with Mary Hill Caperton seconding. October minutes approved. Mary Hill moved to approve the November minutes with noted corrections. Melanie Miller seconded the motion and November minutes were approved. Helena Devereux moved to approve the December minutes with noted corrections. Melanie seconded the motion and the December minutes were approved.

Public Commemoration

Brown Historic District Street Signs: Melanie updated the group on the discussion of the brown historic district street signs at the last meeting. Kristin shared mock-ups of the small signs which could accompany the brown street signs at eye-level on the posts. Genevieve suggested coordinating the design of these signs with Amanda Poncy's bike and pedestrian signage projects. Madeleine may already be working with Amanda and brought the project to her attention so we do not duplicate our efforts to mark the historic districts. Mary Hill moved to pursue this project in coordination with other city sign projects and with a request for the cost of the small post signs. Melanie seconded the motion and all approved. Genevieve suggested also considering ordering the signs as Mylar stickers (or vinyl) for the neighborhoods to use for advertising.

Court Square Markers: Melanie and Kristin updated the group on the status of the project. Genevieve said that the markers should be written to keep a "non-history" reader in mind and that we might consider focus groups with city staff. Helena, Genevieve and Mary Hill all think the signs may have too much text, although certain signs are more problematic than others. Melanie suggested looking at what color would work the best with the brick color of many of the buildings. Melanie will show the signs with existing text to a focus group and return them with comments and edits to Madeleine and Kristin. Mary Joy explained that the next step is to ask the property owners if they would be in favor of having these new signs on their buildings. Perhaps Candance DeLoach could help to communicate with the Court Square property owners.

Bus Posters: Melanie gave an update on the status of the posters. She needs to follow up with the designer on the current poster. The text will need to be approved on this and several other planned posters. The sites being highlighted are the Audio Tour sites. Melanie would like to have several posters finished before bringing a batch to the buses.

Education and Public Meetings

Celebrate 250: Edwina gave an update on the reception of Celebrate!250. One of the most successful events was the “Where I Live” series. Toan Nyugen accepted a thank-you poster at the North Downtown event as a way of acknowledging his help hosting the series in Cville Coffee.

African American Pullman Porters Project: Evelyn Mason introduced her project on honoring local African-American Pullman porters. Pullman porters (1867-1969) worked for the George Pullman car company. Many were former slaves and helped to start the civil rights movement in addition to forming some of the first unions in the country. Ms. Mason would like to place a marker on the Amtrak Station in honor of the men who worked as Pullman porters locally. She is in touch with the Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Society and will continue to research the topic. Edwina mentioned that she knew of several sources that could have information. Mary Hill made a motion to help finance the cost of the project and the motion was approved.

Special Projects

Cemetery Committee: Kristin gave an update on the repair of the Fairfax Taylor marker which has now been restored. The Parks Department paid for the repairs and will consider repairing three or so additional markers in need. Kristin is working on a list of the stones which need emergency repairs in all three cemeteries and will try to bring to the next meeting for the committee to consider prioritizing. To commemorate the repair project, the committee suggested a rededication of the gravesite with a speaker on Fairfax Taylor and a reception at Melanie’s house. There could be an announcement of the next stone to be repaired at the event. Kristin should consider contacting the CFA Institute which now owns the hospital building across the street from the cemetery, and First Baptist Church because Fairfax Taylor was a notable member of their congregation. Winston Churchill Gooding also suggested getting the Hartman Memorial Company to sponsor committee activities and projects in the future.

Other Business

Recruiting new members: Helena suggested setting a deadline by which we come up with a list of new members and present our ideas to the group (March 1st?). Mary Hill suggested Kristin develop a letter about the HRC to perspective members. Genevieve noted that we should compile a list of people who could be informed about the opening. Mary Joy suggested having Paige Barfield post about openings in the committee. We could also note on the website that we are seeking new members. Winston suggested having a social event to advertise to perspective members. Melanie will contact Dede Smith about whether or not she is interested in joining. Helena will contact John Conover and Kristin will contact Jane Meyers.

Jefferson School Opening: Genevieve reminded the group of the opening reception for the Jefferson School on Saturday.

Annual Report for City Council: The committee will compile a list of the accomplishments and current working projects through the past year. Melanie can present this report to Council.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:05 pm