

MINUTES

CHARLOTTESVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE

*Monday February 13, 2017 * 11:00 am – Noon
NDS Conference Room * 610 East Market Street*

Members Present

Melanie Miller, Co-Chair
Edwina St. Rose, Co-Chair
Dede Smith
Margaret O’Bryant
Ellen Wagner
Genevieve Keller
Liz Sargent
Bob Fenwick

Members Absent

Crystal McNeese

Staff

Mary Joy Scala

CALL TO ORDER

Melanie Miller called the meeting to order at 11:08.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee failed to act on the minutes of January 9, 2017, and October 24, 2016. They will be added to the March agenda.

PUBLIC COMMEMORATION

Moore’s Creek Dam Documentation

- Chris Gensic from Parks and Recreation and Kristel Riddervold from Public Works explained a plan to remove the last obstruction from Moore’s Creek – a dam formerly used to collect water to be pumped to Fry’s Spring swimming pool. They also planned to provide a marker to document the structure.

Court Square Markers Update:

- The Committee wanted more information regarding both free and enslaved African Americans presented under the new topic “Social Fabric.”
- Aurelia Crawford at Monticello was recommended as a source.
- Melanie Miller said to submit email comments before the next meeting so we can end the discussion.

Vinegar Hill Park and Markers Update:

- Edwina St. Rose: will contact Scot French again for an update.
- Mary Joy said Camie Mess is preparing an RFP for the Vinegar Hill wayfinding signage; she will get an update from her for next month.

EDUCATION & PUBLIC MEETINGS

Blue Ribbon Commission:

- Margaret O'Bryant: Offered two options to Council, to either relocate or reinterpret the lee statue. Council chose to have the Lee statue relocated.
- Genevieve Keller asked about staff addressing the implementation.
- Liz Sargent proposed preparing the next American Historic Landscapes Survey for Lee Park.
- Bob Fenwick said he is an advocate for having someone artistic, not just practical - in the legacy of someone like Halprin - to reinterpret the park. He said the HRC should play a role in what will happen.

Melanie Miller left the meeting.

- Margaret O'Bryant asked to clarify whether a majority of City Council members want the statue moved out of Charlottesville. She said when McIntire Park was suggested as a location, that persuaded several members of the Blue Ribbon Commission to vote for relocation.
- Bob Fenwick wondered where they could put the statue. He said that, informally, several groups associated with McIntire Park do not want the statue – the Vietnam Memorial, Botanical Garden, and the YMCA.

With seven members present, there was general agreement on the following, which could be passed along to the City Manager:

1. Because the HRC is concerned about the historic significance of the park and its environs, no physical activity should be taken until the legal results are clarified.
2. Appropriate qualifications for a designer [for the re-interpretation] should be identified before an RFP is issued. The HRC could assist with identifying qualifications.
3. If relocation is deemed infeasible, another option would be to retain the statue in place but conceal it.

There was additional discussion that work at Jackson Park intended to reinterpret that park would inform the work to be done at Lee Park.

There was a difference of opinion on the best timing for renaming lee Park. Some thought it should occur now, otherwise it appears we are doing nothing. Others thought the renaming is related to the reinterpretation, so the renaming and redesign should be a package. It was also suggested that the confederate sign should be removed at once. Margaret O'Bryant said the Commission heard that the sign text expressed on the marker was viewed as being “contemporaneous” with the erection of the statue.

Margaret O'Bryant noted that the Commission's final report has appendices that include almost everything the Commission dealt with.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

None

GOALS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Court Square Markers
- Vinegar Hill Park Signage and Markers

OTHER BUSINESS

None

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:20p.m.