



Special Meeting Minutes Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

July 27, 2022

12:00 PM

Union Station, 300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kaky Berry, Scott Binkley, Edwin Bouldin, Emma K. Haney, C. J. Idol, Veronica Kromm, W. Noah Reynolds, Janet Shill, Tina Thacker, and Nicole Townsend-Green

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chad Gadberry and LeAnn Pegram

STAFF PRESENT: Heather Bratland, Jerry Kontos, Michelle McCullough, and David Reed

I. Welcome

II. Lunch

III. Policy and Procedural Topics

A. Role of the Commission and Staff: Best Practices

Staff presented training on quasi-judicial procedures and practices and answered questions from Commission members.

B. CLG training requirement and new form to complete

Staff reviewed the Commission and staff requirements for Certified Local Government training and introduced the new forms the NC State Historic Preservation Office is requiring.

IV. Standards: Updates

A. Old Salem/Bethabara Update (Grant/Process)

Staff informed the Commission that the NC State Historic Preservation Office has notified CLGs that they are running at least a month behind in the selection process on the 2022-2023 Certified Local Government grant applications.

V. Participation in County Planning

A. Downtown Plan recommendations

Staff provided information about the current Downtown Plan update process and presented a list of potential recommendations for the Commission to make to the Downtown Plan Committee. The Commission will be given until the September 7, 2022, meeting to propose any changes to the recommendations. C. J. Idol recommended that the words "and authenticity" be removed from the first recommendation.

B. City-County Comp Plan

Staff updated the Commission that the Planning & Development Services Department will begin a new comprehensive plan, *Forward 2045*, in the fall of 2022. Staff will keep the Commission updated on how they can be involved.

VI. Break

VII. Programming

A. Social equity/racial diversity

1. Membership diversity

Staff shared concerns that have been expressed by members of the Winston-Salem City Council about the lack of diversity on the Commission. Staff announced proposed changes to the categorical seats appointed by the City of Winston-Salem: converting the archaeologist/landscape architect/arborist/planner/surveyor seat and the architectural historian/preservationist seat to at-large seats. Staff will share this proposal with the Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee in September 2022.

2. Development of local programs to support a more diverse and potentially culture-based designation and preservation efforts

A portion of the recent National Alliance for Preservation Commission webinar, *Preservation Justice: Making Your Local Government Preservation Program More Equitable* was shared with the Commission. The video described how other communities are currently recognizing underrepresented communities using current local district and landmark programs. Staff presented a talk on Winston-Salem housing and segregation history starting with the arrival of Reynolds Tobacco Company up to local housing and Urban Renewal projects. The Commission held a discussion about the need to review current programs and consider creating new programs to recognize and acknowledge the history of the City and County's underrepresented communities. The Commission decided to form a committee to do more research on the topic and make recommendations to the Commission for future action. C.J. Idol, Emma Haney, Noah Reynolds, and Nicole Townsend-Green volunteered to be on the committee.

VIII. Resources

A. Website Review

1. HRC website
2. SHPO website

Staff reviewed information and resources that can be found on the Commission's website and HPOWEB.

IX. Education Committee Update

A. Commission(s) – 75th Anniversary 2023

Staff covered the basic timeline of the creation of the Old and Historic Salem District and the first Board of Architectural Review, the Historic District Commission, and the Historic

Properties Commission. Staff also discussed the planned application for a state highway historic marker to honor the creation of the first historic district in North Carolina.

B. February – African American History Month

Staff highlighted past social media posts, and the Commission discussed new ideas like the *Black Architects and Builders* exhibit (see below).

C. May – Preservation Month

Staff highlighted past tours, open houses, and social media posts.

D. Outreach to local elected officials, planning boards, and municipalities **Annual report** **Review agendas**

Staff shared a map of the incorporated municipalities in Forsyth County and a second map that identifies the government that has zoning authority in each municipality. Staff distributed a list of the elected local officials and planning board members throughout the county. Staff noted the importance of developing relationships with elected officials and staying aware of pending development and its potential impact on historic resources.

E. Liaison to Preservation Forsyth/PNC **Conference in October** **Easement workshop**

Staff updated the Commission on the upcoming Preservation North Carolina conference coming to Winston-Salem in October and requested they all attend and assist where needed. Staff will share details on registration and volunteering opportunities. The Commission discussed working with Preservation Forsyth and Preservation North Carolina on future projects and/or events.

F. Black Architects and Builders exhibit

Staff shared information about the exhibit and requested assistance with developing a list of potential local venues and moving the exhibit.

G. Neighborhood Identifiers

Staff shared information about this proposed project and requested assistance with developing criteria.

H. Committee Membership

Staff discussed the need to reestablish the Commission's Education Committee. The Commission agreed to reinstitute the Education Committee. Veronica Kromm, Janet Shill, and Tina Thacker volunteered to begin building the Education Committee.

X. Historic Marker Committee

A. Challenges with getting County applications

Staff stated that receiving Historic Marker application for the County Marker continues to be a struggle and asked that the Commission encourage the public to submit ones from the unincorporated areas of the County.

B. Update on 2022 markers

Staff updated the Commission on changes with the past year's approved markers.

C. Changes to Committee seats

Staff presented recommendations for changes to the Historic Marker Committee seats. The Commission approved adding two *ex officio* seats for members of the African American Heritage Initiative Commission and the Human Relations Commission.

D. Changes to criteria

Staff discussed some of the inadequacies that have come to light regarding the marker criteria and scoring process. The Commission recommended the Historic Marker Committee meet in the early fall to discuss the criteria recommendations.

XI. Future CLG Grant Ideas

Staff went over several ideas for future Certified Local Government Grant projects, including:

- A. Cemetery Project
- B. County Survey Follow-up Projects
- C. Modernism survey
- D. LGBTQ+ survey
- E. WS survey 1955-1975 with focus on highway building/urban renewal impacts

Commission members added studies on houses of worship, National Register of Historic Places for the Castle Heights neighborhood (if the neighborhood is interested in designation), and Sam the Dot Man's property (looking into the status of ownership and potential designation).

XII. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER