

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
Community Outreach Committee
March 6, 2025
Virtual Meeting
6:07 p.m. – 6:52 p.m.
Minutes**

Present

Victoria Grey, HLC Secretary/Community Outreach Committee Chair
Lucas Leonard
Tahlya Mock
Stewart Gray, HL Director
John Howard, HL Historic Preservation Manager
Tommy Warlick, HL Historic Preservation Specialist
Elizabeth Stuart, HL Senior Administrative Support Assistant
Ginny Harper, Mecklenburg County Communication Specialist

Absent

Lesley Carroll, HLC Treasurer
Andrew Dunn
Emily Makas

Note: This meeting was held on Microsoft Teams.

1. Chair's Report: Victoria Grey

Chair Grey stated that the Commission's presence at the Charlotte Museum of History's African American Heritage Festival held in February was a success. She thanked staff for assisting with this event.

2. Discussion of Tentative Upcoming Events: Stewart Gray

Director Gray stated that community outreach for the department is a recent development. He stated that the department's social media presence and Public Information's help with events has led to people recognizing the historic preservation work being done through the department and Commission. He stated that up to this point, staff has been open to seeing what works in terms of outreach and that now is the time to look strategically at what is working and how much staff can handle. He recommended that staff lead six events a year with the option to help with additional events if feasible. He stated that staff is planning to discuss an event attendance requirement for Commissioners with HLC Chair Brian Clarke to get his feedback.

Committee Member Mock offered to help staff plan events.

Chair Grey supported the idea of requiring Commissioners to attend a certain number of events annually. She also requested a focus on asking people to join this Committee at tabling events.

Chair Grey and Historic Preservation Specialist Warlick discussed contacting those who signed up for the mailing list at the recent Charlotte Museum of History event and informing them of participation options.

a. April: Franks House Historic Marker Unveiling

Gray stated that he has been working with the United House of Prayer on this marker unveiling, which is planned for April 13. He stated that the event has been previously delayed and he will ensure that representatives of the church will meet with him on site to finalize details before elected officials are invited.

b. April 26: Settlers' Cemetery Clean Up

Warlick stated that Historic Elmwood Pinewood Inc. (HEPI) are partnering on this event. He stated that the details have been finalized and that promotions will begin soon. He explained that Hurricane Helene damaged some of the stones in the cemetery and noted that HEPI are trying to raise funds for repairs. He stated that this event will hopefully help this effort.

c. June 7: Bike Tour With Charlotte Spokes People (Camp North End and Historic West Charlotte)

Gray stated that this bike tour will start at Camp North End and go through historic West Charlotte. He stated that the route will showcase a lot of the west side's African American built environment.

d. September: Historic Bookmarks Book Club in Huntersville

Warlick stated that this event is part of an effort to hold activities outside of Charlotte within Mecklenburg County. He stated that the book discussed is about Rosenwald Schools and noted that Huntersville School #2 is well-suited since it is now a community center. He stated that staff is discussing how to make this a major event and include the Pottstown Heritage Group, the Torrence-Lytle School Alumni Association, and the Town of Huntersville government.

Gray stated that staff is considering making this event the department's capstone event for this year.

e. October: Matthews Historic Cemetery Clean Up

Warlick stated that this cemetery dates back to the 1800s. He explained that this cemetery is the Town of Matthews' version of Charlotte's Settlers' Cemetery and explained that many notable people are buried here. He stated that staff is hoping that the Matthews Heritage Museum will partner on this event.

3. Old Business

There was no old business.

4. New Business

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.