

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Historic Resources Committee (2025-2026 Work Plan)
Staff Contact(s):	Jeffrey Werner, Historic Preservation and Design Planner
Presenter:	Julie Basic, Historic Resources Committee chair, Jeffrey Werner, Historic Preservation and Design Planner
Date of Proposed Action:	September 2, 2025

Issue

The Historic Resources Committee Chair and Staff will summarize the Committee's recent accomplishments and present City Council its 2025-2026 Work Plan.

Background / Rule

In 1998, City Council established the Historic Resources Task Force to promote the City's historic resources and provide an educational component to the City's historic preservation program. In 2006, it was renamed the Historic Resources Committee ("HRC"). The HRC consists of twelve (12) members, appointed by City Council to terms of three (3) years. The HRC serves primarily as an advisory body and has no statutory authority. The HRC is also not a Board or Commission required by the City Code or the Code of Virginia.

Since its creation, the HRC has, on behalf of the City, completed or sponsored numerous projects that present and celebrate the City's history, while also acknowledging and interpreting its controversial past. Among the committee's past accomplishments:

- Publication of the *Historic Charlottesville Tour Book* (in partnership with the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society);
- Publication of a *Downtown Walking Tour Map*;
- Audio tour of ten (10) significant places in the City using local residents as narrators;
- Maplewood Cemetery Documentation Workshop;
- Installation of narrative markers at Oakwood, Maplewood, and Daughters of Zion Cemeteries;
- Where I Live: Stories from Yesterday and Today Series at C'ville Coffee. Monthly presentations about sixteen (16) historic neighborhoods;
- Fairfax Taylor headstone repair and Gravesite Rededication Ceremony;
- Facilitation of the Daughters of Zion Cemetery Initiative.
- Vinegar Hill informational posters on CODE Building Construction fence;
- Supported/sponsored state and federal historic designation for:
 - Daughters of Zion Cemetery
 - Jackson P. Burley High School
 - Carr-Greer Farmstead (Ivy Creek Natural Area).
 - Downtown Mall; and
- Advised City Council on proposed Honorary Street names.

Recent accomplishments will be summarized in the HRC's Presentation, including:

- Sponsored and funded installation of state historical markers:
 - *Slave sales in Court Square*.

- *The Carver Inn, Green Book site;*
- Publication of an updated *Downtown Walking Tour Map*;
- Contributed to the archaeological investigations at the Swan Tavern site and at the McKee Block site;
- Continued support for Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society's research of descendants of persons enslaved at Pen Park; and
- Funded installation of a replacement marker celebrating the 1962 integration of Johnson Elementary School.

The goals of HRC's Presentation are:

- Reacquaint City Council with the HRC's mission and past accomplishments;
- Summarize recent activities and projects;
- Present the HRC's 2025-2026 Work Plan, identifying how those activities support the goals of the City's Comprehensive Plan; and
- Answer questions and engage in a discussion about the HRC's work on behalf of the City, including the use of allocated resources.

Analysis

Information provided as an update to City Council. No action by City Council required.

Financial Impact

No impact.

Recommendation

Not applicable.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Not applicable.

Attachments

1. 2025_08-01_HRC Council Update (J Basic)