



Minutes
Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission Retreat
September 29, 2023
10:00 a.m.
Robert Hall
874 N. Liberty Street Winston-Salem

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kaky Berry, Chair; C.J. Idol, Vice-Chair; Scott Binkley; Edwin Bouldin; Chad Gadberry; Chenita Johnson; Spencer McCall; Noah Reynolds; Nicole Townsend-Green

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jon Hanna; Veronica Kromm

STAFF PRESENT: Heather Bratland; Michelle McCullough; Deputy City Attorney Jerry Kontos

Chair Berry called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

I. Welcome

Staff welcomed the Commission members and covered the logistics for the day.

II. Ice Breaker

Staff and the Commission members played Two Truths and a Lie as an ice breaker.

III. Bread and Butter AKA The COA

A. Policies and Procedures

1. Role of the Commission and staff

- a. Best practices
- b. Responsibilities

Ms. McCullough covered the role and responsibilities that are assigned to Commission staff; she distributed copies of staffs' work breakdown and the monthly meeting process chart. She covered the role of the attorney, the Commission chair, and the applicant. She reminded the Commission that a new chair would be elected in January 2024. Ms. McCullough and Mr. Kontos covered best practices for Commission members.

2. CLG Requirements and Program

- a. Training
- b. National Register review
- c. Annual report
- d. Grants

Ms. Bratland covered the definition of a certified local government and the four CLGs in Forsyth County; what the requirements to maintain CLG status are, including annual training and reporting requirements; and the benefits of being a CLG, including review of National Register nominations and the availability of grants.

B. Design Review Standard Updates

1. Old Salem Historic District

Ms. McCullough reviewed the schedule of ongoing public meetings in Old Salem to learn what is working and not working with the current Design Review Standards. She then reviewed the planned schedule for revision and adoption of the revised Standards.

2. Local Historic Landmarks

Ms. McCullough discussed the revised application for designation of properties as local historic landmarks, which incorporates new guidance for designating properties for their historic and/or cultural significance as opposed to their architectural significance.

IV. Beyond the COA

A. Upcoming Events & Projects

1. Heritage neighborhoods
2. *Green Book* exhibit and [story map](#) with Triad Cultural Arts
3. 75th anniversary celebration
4. *We Built This Exhibit* and work with WSSU
5. County architectural survey publication

Ms. Bratland and Ms. McCullough covered upcoming events and projects.

The Commission recessed for lunch at 12:30 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

B. Brain Storming Session

1. Commission powers
 - a. State enabling legislation

Ms. Bratland and Ms. McCullough reminded the Commission that the NC General Statutes give the Commission broad powers to accomplish preservation goals beyond the issuance of COAs.

2. Survey results

- a. Top topics:
 - i. Neighborhood outreach
 - ii. African American resources update
- b. Prioritizing

Ms. Bratland reviewed the results of the survey that was distributed to the Commission regarding the topics of interest to the Commission members and the areas in which the Commission members have skills and expertise. Outreach and update of the African American survey were the most highly ranked topics by the Commission. Work with Preservation Forsyth and PNC; designation of cultural landmarks; Preservation Month activities; survey of resources built during the Urban Renewal era; and cemetery preservation were topics of middle interest. Survey of resources associated with the Modernism movement and the LGBTQIA+ community were the lowest ranked topics.

The Commission discussed outreach to the following groups: schools; Winston-Salem AIA; specific neighborhoods; owners of historic property; rural communities; our regulated H/HO/LHL owners and neighborhoods; and elected officials (CALs to assist in WS). The Commission focused on what “we” can do for you, as in the community. Emphasis was placed on finding out what communities want. A listening tour of the following communities was suggested:

A. Winston-Salem

- a. Castle Heights
- b. Bon Air-Greenway
- c. Bellview
- d. City View

B. Rural Communities

- a. Rural Hall (NR of downtown area (already Study Listed)
- b. Tobaccoville
- c. Walkertown

The Commission discussed creating a tool box of that might include the following:

- A. Resources to research a property or area
- B. Programs/Projects
 - a. LHL
 - b. H/HO Districts
 - c. National Register of Historic Places
 - d. Historic Markers

- e. Heritage Neighborhoods
- f. Section 106
- g. Grant Opportunities
- h. Funding Opportunities with Non-profits
- i. Storymaps
- j. Voluntary Agricultural Districts
- k. Cemetery Inventory Program

Mr. Reynolds suggested creating a deck of flash cards with the programs and tools. Churches and cemeteries were groups that often contact staff for assistance. Partnerships with the libraries and genealogy groups might allow the HRC to offer or increase awareness of resources available for researching neighborhoods and buildings.

The Commission discussed its challenges. The public does not know who the Commission is and what their mission is. We still need to educate owners of LHLs and in our H and HO districts, especially re. after-the-fact COA applications. We need to be clear about what we are preserving and why. We should evaluate the resources in the current architectural survey and figure out what is missing.

The Commission discussed ideas for future partnerships with AAHI, Triad Cultural Arts, MUSE, and Creative Corridors for Black History Month. The Commission discussed covering lost resources, offering 3D tours, trivia nights, and digital scavenger hunts for future Preservation Months.

C. Meeting Structure

1. Committee meetings
2. Commission meetings

The Commission discussed the need to have Committee meetings on a regular day and time. Because of their overlapping missions and work, the HRC requested that staff work on merging the DEI and Education Committees into a new Community Engagement Committee. The Committee will meet on the 4th Monday of the month. Meetings in January, April, July, and October will be of the full Committee. Intervening months will be for subcommittee work. The chair of the Committee will report back to the full HRC at monthly meetings rather than having staff report on Committee work. The Committee will have 10-12 members split between the Commission and community. The Committee will begin meeting in January 2024.

V. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

The retreat adjourned at 3:00 p.m.