

**MINUTES of the November 21, 2023, MEETING of the Commission
(via Zoom)**

Adopted December 19, 2023

Members Present – The meeting began at approximately 7:40 p.m. Bob Booher, Wendy Harris, Marilynn Frey, and Mimi Styles were present. David Stopak, Jeff McCrehan and Rob Gilmore, TC liaison, were unable to attend.

Approval of Agenda – Minor modifications were made to the proposed agenda, and it was unanimously approved.

Adoption of Minutes – The Minutes of the October 17 meeting were unanimously approved.

Review Session – There were no projects presented for review.

150th Year Celebration – Don Housley’s November 11 “Peopling of the Americas & Native American Presence in Montgomery County: A 12,000+ Year Story” was well attended and well received. Bob thanked Wendy and Meredith Horan for their efforts in arranging the presentation.

Photo Archives, Videos – Bob reported he believes Meredith and Arlene McCrehan are working on this, but he has no status update as there has been no recent 150th anniversary meeting .

Congratulations Certificates – Mimi confirmed that all the certificates are now framed, but they have not yet been hung in McCathran Hall. She hopes to get that done before our next meeting, and she will coordinate with Pat Patula about the special hardware for hanging.

Web Info Update – Bob spoke to Christine who quickly corrected the “contributing and non-contributing resources” link to point to the correct, updated NR Nomination listing.

Bulletin Material – For the December bulletin, Mimi plans a piece on Circulation, based on the 2019 Cultural Landscape Analysis. Readers will be reminded that the document contains descriptions of each road, avenue, alley, etc., in town. A link will be included in the bulletin.

Planning Commission Meeting – Marilynn attended the November PC meeting and reported that the PC seemed to be willing to take their time to fully evaluate ADU issues. They were not planning to send the ADU recommendation along to the Town Council immediately. There was some discussion about “front yard/back yard” definition, but PC did not feel it is an area that needs further clarification. In its meeting, HPC discussed the apparent lack of evidence whether ADU’s provide “affordable” housing, how many residents would be interested in adding an ADU to their residence, the value of county regulation for rental units, etc.

Town Council Meeting Report – Rob Gilmore was not present to give an official report. No HPC members attended the TC meeting.

Archive Report – Bob reviewed Pat Patula’s most recent archive report. She is archiving the exhibition she put together for the 150th. Pat also has 10-12 boxes ready to be sent to the State Archives, which should free up space in the archive room. David Neumann’s donation, a book about the Starmont Sanitorium, was also noted, and the opportunity it presents for further research.

Playground Equipment – Eva Patrone’s email about potentially removing some pieces of equipment that may be dangerous was discussed. (As an aside, Marilyn related that some of our playground equipment had been donated by the City of Rockville.) Wendy offered to do some research about playground equipment in historic area (specifically mentioning Greenwich Village). Bob will get back to Eva on this.

Emory Grove – Pat Patula’s email about the request from Jamie Ferguson of M-NCPPC for assistance with information relating to the "refreshing" of Johnson Local Park in Emory Grove was discussed. Wendy explained that she actually had suggested to Jamie that she get in touch with Pat about her project. It seems part of the design calls for historic interpretation, and Jamie is hoping that our archives will have some additional information that could be incorporated. Johnson's Local Park will be one of the first parks in the "Untold Stories Initiative," a project highlighting historically significant stories in Montgomery County's diverse communities. This is part of the redevelopment of Emory Grove project. Jamie is also interested in the history of the 7-Eleven conflict. Wendy reiterated her willingness to assist if/when Jamie visits the Town archives. Wendy will contact both Jamie and Pat and she will work to get them together. Bob reminded us that the 7-Eleven conflict has been covered in Phil Edwards book.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 19, at 7:30pm via Zoom.