

## Historic Yorktown Design Committee

### Minutes

February 17, 2021  
East Room  
York Hall  
301 Main Street  
Yorktown, Virginia

**Members Attending:** Carolyn Weekley, Chair  
Robert Hodson, Vice Chair  
Jose Longoria  
Belinda Willis, alternate

**Staff Attending:** Earl W. Anderson, AICP

Mr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and read the following statement:

This electronic remote meeting is being held pursuant to and in compliance with Ordinance No. 20-11(R), adopted by the York County Board of Supervisors June 16, 2020, pertaining to the continuity of County operations associated with the COVID-19 pandemic disaster. This meeting will be closed to in-person participation by the public. Public hearing comments could be made by participating in the zoom meeting and contacting Earl W. Anderson.

### **New Business**

#### **Election of Officers**

Mrs. Willis nominated Carolyn Weekley for Chair and moved approval of the motion. By voice vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Longoria nominated Robert Hodson for Vice-Chairman and moved approval of the motion. By voice vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the January 20, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

### **Old Business**

None

### **Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness**

#### **Application No. HYDC-192-21, Celeste and Josip Guacanac, 600 Main Street**

Mr. Anderson stated that this application, submitted by Celeste and Josip Guacanac, seeks an approval for a new historical marker honoring Lafayette's return to Yorktown in 1824 and are seeking guidance from the Committee regarding placement of the marker on their property at 600 Main Street. The applicant's proposed design is described and depicted in the attached materials. The marker sign would be a two foot (2') by three foot (3') cast aluminum sign on a seven-foot (7') aluminum pole. The sign once placed would be approximately six feet (6') in height, with three feet (3') of the pole being placed underground.

The text of the sign will be the following:

“LAFAYETTE’S TOUR  
FROM OCT. 18 TO 20, 1824,  
GENERAL LAFAYETTE  
RETURNED TO YORKTOWN.  
CELEBRATIONS HONORED THE  
VICTORY AT YORKTOWN IN 1781.  
WILLIAM C. POMEROY FOUNDATION”

In staff's opinion, the proposed historical marker sign does not appear to be covered in the Design Guidelines either in the residential nor commercial signage sections. The proposed sign would be located on a property where a Pivotal residential structure, built prior to 1865 is located. The applicants are requesting the Committee discuss and approve an appropriate location for the sign to be installed. Since the Guidelines do not specifically discuss historical marker signage, staff felt the Committee should review to a general consistency with the overall guiding principles of the Guidelines.

Staff recommends approval of the historical marker, with the specifications/details as submitted by the applicant. Staff believe that placement of the sign would be most appropriate in the northeastern corner of the property along Main Street.

Mr. Anderson asked if there were any questions for him or the applicants.

Ms. Weekley stated that she had concerns with the language used on the sign and suggested some grammatical changes to the wording.

Mrs. Celeste Guacanac stated that the wording could be edited, but there was a certain message that they were working toward to show that Lafayette visited Yorktown after the Revolutionary War. She agreed with staff's recommendation to place the sign at the

northeast corner, as this would have been the path that those docking in Yorktown would have taken to reach the bluff area. They would walk up the hill and the sign would be located right where the Main Street area would have started.

Mr. Julien Icher remarked that the Lafayette Trail is a national trail and marks the tour of the United States that the French General did after the Revolutionary War. The trail has several of these style signs throughout the East Coast. The sign sizing, color, and wording are indicative of the language on them all. They want to reflect a consistent style throughout, so they are recognizable by those that are looking for them as they follow the travels of Lafayette.

The Committee discussed the color and size of the size and suggested that it match the existing signage that is used by the National Park Service or other monuments in Yorktown.

Mr. Icher reiterated the desire of the Lafayette Trail group to have a consistent sign throughout the trail, so that the branding was the same.

Mrs. Willis moved approval to the request to place the new historical marker sign at the northeast corner of the property.

By voice vote the motion failed.

The Committee further discussed the sign colors and asked if they could be changed or if the sign could be attached to a small rock monument similar to the one at the Nelson House.

Mr. Icher stated that the sign colors reflect the colors of the United States flag and the French flag. The colors are the branding for the sign and are was travelers look for as they are following the trail.

Mr. Bill Cole noted that the sign would not detract from Yorktown, but would add a new component to the Historical Village that could attract visitors to the area.

The Committee debated the location of the sign and wondered where on the northeast corner the sign could be located.

Mr. Anderson remarked that he was unsure exactly where the property line was located and where the right-of-way for the road started.

Mrs. Guacanac stated that the property line runs in front of the wall.

Mr. Anderson showed County maps of the property and requested that a survey be done to correctly locate where the property line was in this area, so as not to place the sign in the right-of-way.

Mr. Hodson agreed and asked the Committee about other locations in Yorktown where this kind of marker might be effectively located.

The Committee discussed various locations around Yorktown and felt if the marker could not be placed in front of the wall at 600 Main Street, the marker should be located at York Hall or on other York County property.

Mr. Hodson moved approval of the request for a new historical marker sign to be located at 600 Main Street, subject to the following conditions:

1. The sign shall be constructed according to the pictures and description as submitted with the application.
2. The sign shall be located outside the brick wall at 600 Main Street along the right-of-way in the northeast corner of the property. A survey will be completed to determine if the location is within the 600 Main Street property and not on Virginia Department of Transportation right-of-way.
3. If the location is not within the property limits of 600 Main Street, the applicant will work with York County to place the historical marker sign on the County-owned property at York Hall.

By voice vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Committee Requests**

None

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Earl W. Anderson, Secretary

Approved by HYDC: Earl W. Anderson