

Legacy Commission

GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

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Objectives

- ◀ Review Legacy Commission recommendations
- ◀ Approval of Legacy Commission Recommendations
- ◀ Identify next steps for the internal work team

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Legacy Commission Charge

- ◀ Engage in a comprehensive study of street names and monuments in the City of Charlotte that honor a legacy of Confederate soldiers, slave owners and segregationists.

1. Monuments

- ◀ **Install interpretive signage near the Confederate section of Elmwood Cemetery to explain the history of the Confederate memorials located there.**
- ◀ It was determined that there are no Confederate monuments currently in public spaces controlled by the City of Charlotte, beyond those located in Elmwood Cemetery. The Commission shared the view that memorialization is appropriate in a cemetery setting.

2. Street Names

- ◀ **The highest priority for change should be streets named for leaders of the Confederacy and white supremacists who actively fought to defend slavery and against racial equality.**
- ◀ **Move expeditiously to change the names of these streets:**

Jefferson Davis Street
 W Hill Street
 Stonewall Street
 Jackson Avenue
 Phifer Avenue

Aycock Lane
 Barringer Drive
 Morrison Boulevard
 Zebulon Avenue

3. Neighborhoods and Developers

- ◀ **Support and encourage the efforts of neighborhoods and developers that petition for additional street name changes based on ties to slavery, the Confederacy, white supremacy or glorification of the Antebellum South.**

4. Criteria for Naming New Streets

- ◀ **Develop street naming criteria, for streets names after people.**
- ◀ **Assess worthiness of the proposed individual by:**
 - Recognizing those who have had an important and positive impact on the city, state or nation and give priority to those who have had a significant connection to Charlotte
 - Honoring individuals who represent the diversity of the city's history and whose contributions have been overlooked in the past.
 - No street should be named for a living person, and not until the individual has been deceased for a period of no less than five years.

4. Criteria for Naming New Streets (cont'd)

- Establish a standard for weighing morally repugnant past deeds and words against any important and positive impact the individual had on the city, state, or nation.
- Consider loosening street-naming policies, to allow for streets to carry both first and last names.
- Review street naming and renaming proposals and requests in consultation with local historians (recommended by the Levine Museum of the New South or the Historic Landmarks Commission) to ensure that street names tied to slave owners, leaders of the Confederacy, and white supremacists are no longer approved.

5. Reimagine Commemorative Landscape

◀ Reimagine the city's commemorative landscape to align with the values and diversity of today's Charlotte.

- Create a wall with names of enslaved people who lived in Charlotte.
- Connect and support with efforts to install the lynching memorial from the National Memorial for Peace and Justice that commemorates the deaths of Joe McNeely and Willie McDaniel, the two documented lynching's in Charlotte
- Create commemorative spaces across the city that feature Charlotteans of all backgrounds who advocated for positive change.

6. Identify Funding Sources

◀ Apply for a grant from the Mellon Foundation's Monuments Project.



Public Hearing

◀ **January 4, 2021**

◀ **Three Speakers**

- Two support the proposed recommendations
- One against the proposed recommendations

Approval of Legacy Commission's Recommendations

Internal Work Team

◀Phase 1: Quick-wins

- Support neighborhoods and developers' efforts that petition for additional street name changes based on ties to slavery, the Confederacy, white supremacy or glorification of the Antebellum South
- Submit Mellon Foundation funding application
- Connect and support with efforts to install the lynching memorial from the National Memorial for Peace and Justice that commemorates the deaths of Joe McNeely and Willie McDaniel, the two documented lynching's in Charlotte

◀Phase 2: Analysis on the impact of the remaining proposed recommendations to Charlotte residents and City policies

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