



# City of Racine

City Hall  
730 Washington Ave.  
Racine, WI 53403  
[www.cityofracine.org](http://www.cityofracine.org)

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Landmarks Preservation Commission

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Monday, June 10, 2019

5:15 PM

City Hall, Room 303

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#### Call To Order

*Prior to calling the meeting to order, Chairman John Monefeldt allowed the presentation to be made regarding locational signage at certain Underground Railroad sites (item 0691-19).*

*Commissioner Veranth arrived at 5:48 p.m.*

*Chairman Monefeldt called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. The agenda was taken in the following order: 0691-19, 0690-19.*

*Present: 4 - John Monefeldt, Chris Flynn, Mollie Jones, Tony Veranth*

*Excused: 1 - Pippin Michelli*

#### Approval of Minutes for the May 13, 2019 Meeting

**A motion was made by Alder Jones, seconded by Commissioner Flynn, to approve the minutes of the May 13th meeting. The motion PASSED by a Voice Vote.**

#### [0690-19](#)

**Subject:** (Direct Referral) Review of the design for the reconstruction of the intersection of 16th Street and College Avenue (LPC 19).

**Attachments:**     [Finding of No Adverse Effect](#)  
                              [Section 106 Review](#)  
                              [College Intersection-Proposed](#)

*John Rooney, City Engineer/Assistant Commissioner of Public Works, introduced the request. He explained that the location is seen as historic because of the historic district and the disposition of the intersection. He stated what was previously before the Commission was to talk about the intersection and how it should be handled. He stated he took comments from the Commission and forwarded the comments to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WISDOT) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). He stated that the determination of no adverse effect was received regarding the proposal of a concrete intersection; however, after seeing the passion of the citizens and the Commission they wanted to make a good faith effort to bring the intersection back to its historic look. Mr. Rooney stated they are not technically obligated to do anything because of the determination of no adverse effect from the State, however, he met with Mayor and Alder Jones to discuss the thought process. Mr. Rooney showed the proposed plan to rebuild the intersection. He stated the plan is to have the intersection in brick and put colored concrete pavement within the crosswalks. Mr. Rooney stated that the project is a federally funded project and*

*certain aspects are required due to ADA compliance.*

*Mr. Rooney described the process. He stated that the historic bricks will remain, however, some will be removed for the crosswalks to be poured. He stated a brick intersection will be recreated; a layer of concrete will be poured and a base course layed that the bricks will sit on. Mr. Rooney explained the materials to be used and showed samples and two different options of the potential bricks to be used. He stated the brickyard corporation has the bricks in stock.*

*Chairman Monefeldt asked about the lifespan of the products.*

*Mr. Rooney stated the materials will exceed the project life and will last about 40-50 years. He stated the Engineering Department will be covering the cost.*

*Mr. Rooney explained the project timeline. He stated final plans for the project are due August 1st, with the project starting next Spring as soon as weather permits. The bids for the project will be opened in January 2020. He stated he is looking for approval from the Landmarks Preservation Commission on the material and the design of the intersection.*

**A motion was made by Alder Jones, seconded by Commissioner Flynn, to approve the design as submitted and the use of the Purington Block salvaged brick material for intersection. The motion PASSED by a Voice Vote.**

[0691-19](#)

**Subject:** (Direct Referral) Review of locational plaques to be installed at certain Underground Railroad sites within the City of Racine (LPC 19).

**Attachments:**     [Racine Underground Railroad Freedom Heritage Trail](#)  
                              [Downtown Racine Freedom Heritage Trail Signs](#)  
                              [Summary Doc Creating Freedom Heritage Trail](#)

*Chairman Monefeldt allowed the presentation to be made regarding installing locational plaques at certain Underground Railroad sites within the city of Racine.*

*Associate Planner Jeff Hintz explained the request and stated that it relates to the Heritage Preservation Plan that was recently adopted by the City. He stated that signage plaques and markers relating to the Underground Railroad will be placed at various locations in the city. Mr. Hintz showed the locations where the plaques would be located and explained the site and the proposed locations of the markers on each of the properties: Racine Heritage Museum, Monument Square (Joshua Glover Plaque), First Presbyterian Church, Cartwright Blacksmith Shop (on the corner of Villa and Sixth Streets), Utley & Berch Site (Butcher and Barrel Restaurant), Clements Newspaper Office, Armour Livery Stable (the parking garage), Dutton and Raymond Warehouse Site – the site is currently under water due to the harbor construction, Home of the Reverend Kinney, and the Colored Union Baptist Church site. Note: The sites and proposed locations for the plaques can be found in the attachments to this item.*

*Mayor Mason further explained the request. He stated this is a combined effort between the Professional Women's Network for Service (PWNS) and the Racine Heritage Museum. He stated PWNS was proposing to have more permanent and recognizable markers in the city and he proposed that the Council adopt some of the revenue for tourism for this purpose. Mayor Mason explained the importance of celebrating the cultural heritage of the city and stated we are making great strides on*

*ensuring the understanding of the history of the Underground Railroad in the city of Racine.*

*Mayor Mason explained the requested action of the Commission. He stated the Commission is being asked to approve the installation of the ten high quality, historic signs downtown to commemorate the sites and help mark the Underground Railroad Freedom Heritage Trail. He stated the sites and the markers would become a walking historical tour for the city. Mayor Mason stated at least four of the sites may be eligible to be nationally designated with the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and promoted by the National Park Service (NPS). He expressed his excitement about the partnership with UW Parkside who will help create an app for the tour and its impact on the City of Racine. He stated recognizing Racine's involvement in the Underground Railroad is an important part of our history and one that we need to be reminded of, both for those who visit and those who live here. He stated he would encourage the Landmarks Commission to vote favorably on the placement of the proposed signs.*

*Chairman Monefeldt opened the floor for public comment.*

*The following persons spoke regarding the request:*

*Pauline Mitchell from PWNS spoke. She stated the project has been worked on for a number of years starting in 2000. She stated the first monument was put up on Monument Square and commemorating the story of Joshua Glover. Ms. Mitchell spoke of the story Haymarket square (aka Monument Square) and Joshua Glover. Ms. Mitchell explained that Glover was an escaped slave from Missouri who traveled to Racine. She stated the slave captors came up to get Glover and when the community heard about it, they were appalled. She stated once he was captured and taken to Milwaukee and put in jail, there were 100 people who assembled at Haymarket Square, which is now Monument Square, and had a rally and went up to Milwaukee and busted him out of jail. Ms. Mitchell explained that they went around about 40 days to figure out how they were going to get Glover to Canada and the eventual departure was at the site located at Gaslight Pointe (number 8 on the markers list) where he was put on one of the Dutton Raymond ships and shipped to Canada. She stated Glover was the lead in this area for bringing down the fugitive slave act. She stated Racine and Wisconsin have a rich history; the Wisconsin State Supreme Court stood up against the Federal Court and said there are people who went to jail for that. She stated that it is a story that is rich for this area and to have it known is very important. She stated the other sites are connected with the story that emanated with Joshua Glover.*

*Andrea Bell-Myers spoke. She stated she is a teacher in Kenosha and was born and raised in Racine. She has been working extensively with the Racine Heritage Museum and has designed a tour around the markers that she takes hundreds of students on each year. She stated she has been doing work related to the African American history in the area since 2003. She stated she has been keeping the story alive everyday as a teacher in a classroom.*

*Scott Terry spoke. He stated he was speaking on behalf of Sentinel Mentors. He stated this is a phenomenal project and a story that the community as a whole needs to know. He spoke about the Sentinel Mentors and the Black Legacy Project and its aim to document and narrate the history of the Black community and culture. He stated the projects are monumental in telling the story regarding the African American history in Racine. He stated he would like to encourage the Commission to move forward the signage.*

*Chris Paulsen, Racine Heritage Museum stated you cannot fail to take in the national importance of this. He stated two sites and a facility have the blessing of the NPS Network of Underground Railroad sites and three or four more of the sites are likely to be included. He stated they are continuing to push to get the items identified and listed by the NPS. He stated it is a wonderful promotional piece for the community.*

*Chairman Monefeldt asked if proposed signage and material samples were available.*

*Mayor Mason stated not yet; there will other points throughout the project. He stated the piece of the process that needs approval for today is the physical placement of the signs.*

*Linda Schubert, First Presbyterian Church, asked about the verbiage of the signs and asked if the sites would be able to look at the signage before they are etched.*

*Vicky Selkove, Manager of Strategic Initiatives & Community Partnerships, stated there was a list with the location of the signs, what they are commemorating, and the verbiage suggested by PWNS and the Museum for the signs are provided in the packet. She stated there is still time to tweak the verbiage if necessary, but samples have been provided.*

*Ms. Mitchell spoke about Betty Stinson who worked tirelessly to get the Underground Railroad project up and running. She stated the name Underground Railroad was dormant for a very long time and it was PWNS who brought it to the floor and worked with the Heritage Museum to get established as an Underground Railroad site. She stated they still feel passionate about the project and they worked hard to get it up and running.*

*Chairman Monefeldt stated it is very important. He stated he feels that the Committee is on the same page regarding the project's support and importance not only to the city, but to the state.*

*Ms. Bell-Myers asked that people be conscious about using the words enslaved, slave, and freedom seeker. Explained that ancestors were enslaved, they were not slaves when they were taken from their homes in Africa; they became enslaved.*

*Chairman Monefeldt stated it sounds that once the verbiage gets finalized, there will be public comment. He stated right now we are not approving any signage wording, that will be back at the committee and at that time we can allow for public comment.*

*Mr. Terry asked about the entry signage as you come into the city and if there would be any sort of identifier and signage installed such as the Racine signs to communicate where the markers could be found.*

*Chairman Monefeldt stated that it could potentially be changed if it is something the community feels strongly about.*

*Ms. Mitchell stated PWNS has given a lot of thought and research regarding the verbiage of the markers. She stated there is a book in the museum by a pair of authors who have done research all over the country and Canada to make sure that everything was accurate regarding the verbiage. She stated that the National Network of Freedom approved what they were doing and it was not done lightly. She stated a lot*

*of thought has been put into the signage.*

*In response to Mr. Terry, Ms. Mitchell stated that part of what has been proposed is to have a large sign placed somewhere that would indicate what you are coming into and all of the things that are in the trail. She referenced the Freedom Trail in Philadelphia that has a sign that outlines everything. She stated the tour should be called walking/driving tour since some of the sites are far away from each other.*

*Ms. Schubert expressed concern about the verbiage for the sign. She stated currently there is a sign down by the old Chancery restaurant that refers to First Presbyterian Church as an anti-abolitionist church.*

*Ms. Mitchell stated that was not part of PWNS project.*

*Mr. Paulsen stated that it was a Leadership Racine project and it has been suggested that it be removed.*

*Ms. Schubert stated that the sign has been there since at least 2002.*

*There being a quorum, Chairman Monefeldt called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.*

*Commissioners discussed the potential for special meetings being held to finalize the verbiage for the signs. Staff and Commission members are open to the potential for special meetings.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Flynn, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve the locations for the signage as requested. The motion PASSED by a Voice Vote.**

## **Administrative Business**

### **Raze Permit**

*Chairman Monefeldt stated he saw a raze order for a garage.*

*Commissioners agreed there was no historic value to the garage.*

### **Progress on Re-designations**

*Mr. Hintz explained that things were moving forward regarding re-designations. He stated letters will go out tomorrow to 14 properties.*

## **Adjournment**

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.*