

Town of James Island History Council  
Tuesday, October 6, 2020  
6:00 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes  
Meeting was held virtually in a Zoom webinar

In Attendance: Chair: Paul Hedden, Inez BrownCrouch, Susan Milliken, Michael O'Neale, Jim Morrisette, Town Administrator: Ashley Kellahan, Mayor Bill Woolsey-liaison to History Council. Special Guest-Joseph McGill, The Slave Dwelling Project.

History Council meeting minutes from August 11, 2020 and September 1, 2020 meetings were distributed via email prior to meeting. S. Milliken inquired as to whether meeting minutes need to be reviewed and approved. P Hedden had a correction in the September 1, 2020 meeting minutes, but unable to locate his notes. Motion made to put off approval of August and September meeting minutes until the November meeting. Motion seconded for discussion. S Milliken stated we received these minutes ahead of time and need to move ahead, revise if needed and approve. I BrownCrouch asked P Hedden if he can remember what the issue was that needed corrected. P Hedden found his notes: correction to indicate that he did not describe the activities of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, that was another council member. (Sept. 1, 2020 meeting). Motion made to approve August 11, 2020 minutes and also September 1, 2020 meeting minutes with that correction/striking that sentence. Seconded. Vote: Yes-3, No-1 (M. O'Neale).

Welcome by P Hedden to guest Joseph McGill, The Slave Dwelling Project. M. O'Neale stated that the Sons of Confederate Veterans will not partner with McGill for the First Shot event. No Union soldiers were present at the actual event on April 12, 1861. The Director of the CSV has stated that if offending organizations are there, the SCV will not be there. M O'Neale has set up the plans with CVS and others for the reenactment of the First Shot and a memorial to portray history as it happened only. S. Milliken stated that no decisions on the event had been made except for Mr. O'Neale to check into some things for First Shot with SCV and that all members of the History Council will participate in the planning of the event. M O'Neale stated again that the SCV will not participate in the event if Joseph McGill does. Members urged staying with the agenda order for the meeting. After discussion, another vote was taken again on the approval of the August and September 2020 minutes: Motion and second for approval of August and September meeting minutes. Vote 4-0 to approve both sets of minutes with the change indicated by P Hedden/sentence to be removed.

#### Old Business

Oral History Project: Motion made by S Milliken and seconded by I BrownCrouch to defer discussion of this topic to November meeting of the History Council. Vote to Defer to November meeting: 4-0.

James Island Skyway Report/James Island Airports: P Hedden has the report and will email it members. Members will read and review before November History Council meeting. M O'Neale has a good aerial photo from 1953 which shows the location of the airport. P Hedden inquired at Charleston Museum and they have no information re. any James Island airports.

#### New Business

Planning for Fall 2020, Spring 2021:

Stamp Act Defiance Remembrance Event, recommended date of event is Nov. 15, 2020 - Mr. Sutley at Fort Johnson is ready for the completed application for the event. Ashley Kellahan will work with P Hedden to complete and send over to them. Ashley needs to know more specifics from History Council to complete application. Council members discussed event and agreed it will similar to the previous Victory Day event with Revolutionary reenactors and speakers. S Milliken asked if Carl Borick at Charleston Museum had been invited. P Hedden said he will contact him. The event will be Sunday, Nov. 15, 2020. S Milliken expressed concern that post-election/election results might overshadow the event. P Hedden said Nov 15 is the best date and closest to the actual event date in November. S Milliken stated she is on board. I BrownCrouch expressed having an event similar to previous Victory Day, committee members agreed. Rain Date or Rain or Shine event discussed. M O'Neale stated that for reenactors it is better to do "Rain or Shine", P Hedden agreed. I BrownCrouch made a motion for Stamp Act Event to be on Sunday Nov 15, Rain or Shine. Motion seconded by S Milliken. Motion passed unanimously. P Hedden will follow up with groups and with Ashley to plan, M O'Neale will assist. It was acknowledged that we have a meeting of the History Council on Nov. 10 prior to this event on Nov 15, 2020.

Black History Month-February 2021- S Milliken suggested deferring discussion until Nov meeting as we do not have our notes from last meeting in front of us tonight. P Hedden made the motion to defer topic to November meeting. S Milliken seconded. Motion to defer more discussion of Black History Month to Nov passed 4-0.

First Shot event - April 2021 - M O'Neale made the motion for the date of this event to be Sunday, April 11, 2020. (no second, discussion followed) M O'Neale has met with the SCV and plans would include a reenactment, wearing of Civil War regalia, tent, brochures along with a memorial. It would not promote the SCV, just Confederate history. Two speakers are possibilities, with one being Gene Kaiser. The event would run about 2 hrs, there could also be a Q and A session. P Hedden stated this outline is excellent but needs some fleshing out. M O'Neale stated the event needs to be done right and correctly historically. S Milliken suggested the group hear from Mr. Joseph McGill who is a guest at the meeting. S Milliken stated that hosting a diverse, inclusive event had been discussed. M O'Neale stated that there were no blacks at the First Shot, diversity and inclusion is being forced down peoples' throats and we are changing history. M. O'Neale stated he will not participate if Joseph McGill does. Mr. McGill addressed the group with his comments/ideas for an inclusive First Shot event: He always expects pushback, it is common. He said who was being fired upon and what was being defended? Federal forces were fired upon and an opposing view is important also. That is part of history as well. J McGill urged inclusivity and the telling of well-rounded stories; and why not do something collectively and together? M O'Neale stated the North was not there. J McGill asked why not include those who had been at Fort Sumter. M O'Neale reiterated that there were no blacks at the First Shot. Discussion ensued re. the role of slaves in the Civil War. S Milliken stated the First Shot is not really the first shot-a supply boat had been shot upon prior. Discussion continued and moved toward the idea of having two separate events to commemorate the First Shot. M O'Neale said the SCV were envisioning a reenactment w/ Secession Camp 4 and Conway artillery, and a memorial for those who lost their lives in the Civil War. J McGill stated that a Union soldier lost his life at Fort Sumter. J McGill stated that a diverse group came together to commemorate the Hunley. M O'Neale stated that was different as it was later in the war. J McGill asked if a Union chaplain could be there and M O'Neale said No because that would not be historically correct. I BrownCrouch urged council members to reflect on these issues from her point of view and walk in her shoes and think about how all this makes her feel. M. O'Neale stated that his mother is black. S Milliken made the motion to host dual events commemorating First Shot, one on April 11, 2021 and one a few days later to present other viewpoints. I BrownCrouch seconded the motion. (no vote was taken)

Discussion continued: S Milliken suggested calling the events "First Shot: The Road to Freedom" where we would reach out to black historians and have two events, with the second one following a few days after the First Shot reenactment. J McGill agreed that he could do something separate and apart from the April 11, 2021 event at Fort Johnson. More discussion occurred around the idea of having two separate events for "First Shot".

Mayor Woolsey (liaison to History Council) urged the council to dispense with the motion on the floor for 2 dual events commemorating First Shot. P Hedden stated that he would like to see a commemoration on April 11, reenactment only and no other stuff, the 2nd event would be Mr. J McGill's part. S Milliken stated that she would be voting No to a First Shot event as described by M O'Neale and something smaller would be preferable. Mayor Woolsey urged the council to take up the motion on the floor for two events for "First Shot". S Milliken reiterated her motion to have the First Shot even on Sunday April 11, 2021 and another event with J McGill on a day soon after. Motion was seconded by I BrownCrouch. M O'Neale stated he is going to pull the SCV out of the reenactment. Vote on the motion: 3-2 (Yes: P Hedden, S Milliken, I BrownCrouch, No: M O'Neale and Jim Morrisette (it was ascertained that Mr. Jim Morrisette newly appointed by Town Council to the History Council is a voting member). P Hedden said he can plan First Shot without the SCV. S Milliken asked that all ideas for these events be brought back to the History Council for discussion and finalization. P Hedden said he will reach out to Skipper Keith and Doug Bostick for First Shot event.

Jim Morrisette suggested not having two events and combining these events for one inclusive event. He suggested going back to what we want to accomplish with one inclusive event. J McGill said this can be a scholarly event with a Q and A, and include discussion of social issues, and it will reach more people. Mayor Woolsey said the council can reconsider their previous vote for the dual events. S Milliken made the motion to reconsider the previous motion for two dual events. J Morrisette seconded it. Motion to reconsider previous vote for two dual events for First Shot passed 5-0. S Milliken made a motion for one inclusive event to commemorate First Shot. P Hedden seconded. Motion passed 4-1 with M O'Neale voting No. Discussion: ideas re. two events on one day, both on Sunday April 11, 2021. P Hedden stated that this will be a commemoration not a memorial, but can include a memorial. S Milliken asked for planning and ideas to please come back to the entire council. P Hedden agreed. J McGill checked his calendar and can participate on April 11, 2021. The History Council agreed that First Shot commemoration will be a 2-part program all on April 11, 2021, will include a reenactment and a discussion including Mr. McGill and others. Mayor Woolsey said that details including COVID protection and masks etc can be decided upon later. Mayor Woolsey asked if the council could select a Secretary to serve for the History Council. S Milliken offered to serve as Secretary. All members agreed for S Milliken to serve as Secretary. I BrownCrouch made a motion to adjourn, M O'Neale seconded. Meeting was adjourned at approx. 7:25 p.m.

*-Minutes prepared by Susan Milliken, Secretary, TOJI History Council*

