

Legacy Commission

EMILY ZIMMERN, CHAIR

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.
- ◁ The community engagement process will inform the final determination of any recommended changes presented by the Commission.
- ◁ All street name changes and monument name changes will begin a new history that is inclusive of contributions made by our country's most worthy citizens.

Legacy Commission Membership

- ◁ Emily Zimmern
- ◁ Donnie Simmons
- ◁ Frank Coley
- ◁ Levester Flowers
- ◁ Debra Smith
- ◁ Michael Sullivan
- ◁ Fannie Flono
- ◁ Alan Kronovet
- ◁ Len Norman
- ◁ Mary Newsom
- ◁ Tom Hanchett
- ◁ Mildred McCullough
- ◁ Kristen Wile
- ◁ Beatrice Thompson

Consultants:

- Dr. Willie Griffin, Levine Museum of the New South
- Dr. Karen Cox, UNCC

Legacy Commission Review Process

◁ Historical Background

- Understanding the Lost Cause and Charlotte's Role in Perpetuating Its Myths

- Slavery, the Civil War, and the Rise of White Supremacy in Charlotte, NC

Monuments

- ◀ 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.
- ◀ Commissions in other cities and scholars who have written about the topic have largely agreed that cemeteries, along with battlefields, are appropriate locations for Confederate monuments.

Legacy Commission Review Process

- ◀ **Deliberations on Current Street Names**
 - Approaches taken by other cities: Atlanta, Dallas, Louisville, and Richmond
 - Establishing Criteria for Street Name Changes
 - Community Engagement is Critical and Necessary Before any Street Name Changes
- ◀ **A New Commemorative Landscape**
 - Revised Criteria for Street Names in the Future

Current Policy for Street Name Changes

- ◁ Citizens may request that the names of streets within the Charlotte City Limits be changed.
- ◁ A petition of 75% of the property owners on the street will be required for non-agency/departmental requests.
- ◁ Property owners are responsible for all costs associated with street-name changes.

Next Steps

- ◁ **Community Engagement and Feedback on Legacy Commission Recommendations**
 - Partnership with the City's Community Relations Committee and Charlotte Communications Departments
 - *Survey*
 - *Virtual Feedback Sessions*
- ◁ **Final Recommendations (inclusive of resident feedback) presented to Council December 14, 2020**



Questions

LEGACY COMMISSION

