

LaVilla Heritage Trail & Gateway Committee

AGENDA

Hybrid Virtual In-Person Meeting

Friday, September 2, 2022, at 2:00 PM

MEMBERS:

Ennis Davis, Chair

Carol Alexander

Shawana Brooks

Ayesha Covington

Mamie Davis

Dr. Tim Gilmore

Allen Marshal/George Greenhill

Mitch Hemann

Rodney Hurst

Rahman Johnson

Marsha Phelts

Suzanne Pickett

Adrian Swanigan

Adonnica Toler

Thomas Waters

Genaro Urso

Lloyd Washington

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. MINUTES – AUGUST 5, 2022**
- IV. LAVILLA LOGO CALL TO ARTIST PRESENTATION (Committee Action) – *Malcolm Jackson***
- V. LAVILLA HERITAGE TRAIL (Committee Action) – *Chair Davis***
 - a. Review Updated Heritage Trail Map
 - b. Committee Discussion
 - c. Committee Vote
- VI. FDOT PRESENTATION (Informational Only) – *FDOT Representative***
- VII. OTHER MATTERS TO BE ADDED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR**

TAB III

AUGUST 5, 2022

LAVILLA HERITAGE TRAIL & GATEWAY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES



**LaVilla Heritage Trail & Gateways Committee Hybrid Meeting
Friday, August 5, 2022 – 2:00 p.m.**

**LaVilla Heritage Trail & Gateways Committee Hybrid Meeting
Draft - *MEETING MINUTES***

Committee Members (CMs) in Attendance: Ennis Davis, Chair; Carol Alexander (via Zoom); Mamie Davis; Mitch Hemann; Rahman Johnson (late arrival); Marsha Phelts; Adonnica Toler; Lloyd Washington; Thomas Waters; and Genaro Urso

Committee Members Excused: Shawana Brooks; Ayesha Covington; Tim Gilmore; Larry Gwyn; Suzanne Pickett; Rodney Hurst; and Adrian Swanigan

DIA Staff Present: Lori Boyer, Chief Executive Officer; Steve Kelley, Director of Downtown Real Estate and Development; Ina Mezini, Marketing and Communications Specialist; Xzavier Chisholm, Administrative Assistant; and Antonio Posey, Project Manager

Office of General Counsel:

Also in attendance: Sondra Fetner, Esq., Urban Vision Consulting

I. CALL TO ORDER

The LaVilla Heritage Trail & Gateways Committee meeting of August 5th, 2022, was called to order at 2:09 p.m. by Chairman Davis.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following persons made in-person public comments, made public comments virtually through Zoom, or provided comments that were read into the record by DIA Staff. Note: the subject matter of the comment(s) indicated to the right of each person:

Yvonne Hicks Suggested contacting residents from LaVilla to get their input on the projects at hand.

CM Johnson arrived to the meeting.

Chairman Davis acknowledged the individuals attending virtually.

CM Johnson stated for the record that he received recommendations from two individuals since last month's committee meeting, and although they did not fall within the scope of the committee's charge, he thanks them for their efforts and providing input into the process.

III. JULY 1, 2022 LAVILLA HERITAGE TRAIL & GATEWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Having called for corrections or other edits by his fellow committee members and after receiving none, Chairman Davis asked for a motion and second on the item.

Motion: CM Waters moved to approve the minutes as presented

Seconded: CM Johnson seconded the motion

Vote: Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0-0.

IV. LAVILLA HERITAGE TRAIL – CHAIRMAN DAVIS

Chairman Davis spoke to the process the committee has underwent thus far in selecting sites for the Heritage Trail, adding that sites that have been provided to DIA staff since the previous meeting have been incorporated into the current map. Chairman Davis asked the committee if there are any additional sites they would like to see on the map.

Chairman Davis confirmed for CM Waters that Manuel’s Tap Room is listed on the map at 44 and the Brick Church Cemetery is listed at 22.

CM Toler commented that she would like E. L. Weems’ residence added to the map at Beaver and Clay, across from Stanton.

CM Washington stated that there would be markers every few feet if the committee captured all the historically significant sites in LaVilla. He suggested putting multiple sites on a single marker.

CM Johnson agreed and suggested using technology such as QR codes, audio narration, and other forms of digital/virtual technology to help capture and communicate LaVilla’s history.

Several committee members suggested retrieving Mr. Weems’ collection, as well as archives relevant to the prominent women of LaVilla, from The Ritz Theatre and various locations in Atlanta. CM Waters added that Skip Herman Mason will be a good point of contact for the archives in Atlanta.

CM Waters commented that Birmingham has an excellent example of technology being used to broadcast information. He also stated that he would like to see the old street names identified and documented so that it will correspond with the old addresses and buildings.

CM Urso suggested that the committee identify historical places and people first and then determine exactly where the markers will go and what goes on them. He also stated that the gateways should be themed.

CM Johnson asked is there a set dollar amount going toward the historic markers. CEO Boyer responded that the total budget is about \$800,000 and that money can be used for things such as the gateways and the various type of markers.

V. LAVILLA GATEWAYS – CHAIRMAN DAVIS

CM Hemann suggested exploring concepts such as a walk of fame where a stretch of street or sidewalk displays a medallion, designation, or ornament of some type for each historical figure, and where a QR code or other technology could be used in conjunction.

Chairman Davis gave a presentation on proposed LaVilla neighborhood gateway locations.

Chairman Davis stated that FDOT is in the process of performing a PD&E study on I-95 from I-10 to Beaver Street which will likely impact LaVilla, and encouraged the committee and the community to weigh in and get involved in the process – particularly the exits and entrances into the community.

CM Waters suggested having a FDOT representative attend a committee meeting to speak to the project and allow an opportunity for committee members and the meeting participants to provide input.

CEO Boyer stated that the next block beyond the gateway at Lee Street and Bay – adjacent to LEVS park – will have catenary lights and the pavement will be painted as part of the Walter Hood design and overall LEVS park design. She also noted that The Ritz pocket park, which is in proximity to the Ritz Theatre gateway, is also part of the Walter Hood design, and it will have the Augusta Savage harp sculpture so the committee should consider that when deciding how the gateway will look.

CM Urso reiterated his suggestion that each gateway should have a theme (e.g., one gateway celebrates the women of LaVilla, another gateway celebrates the pioneers in medicine from LaVilla, another gateway celebrates the notable political figures from LaVilla, etc.)

CM Mamie Davis asked has the committee established where exactly the gateways will be located. Chairman Davis said that the process is ongoing, and the gateway locations presented today are not set in stone.

CEO Boyer reminded the committee that too many gateways may spread the funds too thin and asked the committee to really consider where they want them. She stated that the gateway at Beaver and Broad was added partly because of the work going on at Stanton and the presence of the Clara White Mission, and partly because of work with FDOT regarding traffic calming on Beaver Street due to the high number of accidents at that intersection.

Chairman Davis commented that at this stage in the process, the committee should concentrate more on creativity and less on the budget. Adding that, there will come a point when budget decisions will be made, but that they may be able to utilize FDOT funds to supplement the DIA funds.

CM Mamie Davis suggested adding Ashley Street as one of the gateway locations, particularly because it was the old Main Street in LaVilla.

CM Urso suggested Jefferson and State.

CM Waters asked if any artwork or monument is being contemplated at the JTA terminal and similar sites to orient people toward LaVilla. Chairman Davis stated that the Walter Hood designs incorporate a public space called The Colored Waiting Room in front of the train station that ties the transportation center to the LaVilla link of the Emerald Trail as well as the Lee Street skyway platform.

The committee confirmed that they are in agreement with the four gateway locations proposed so far.

CM Johnson suggested an art piece or street mural at Union and Davis to bring people toward the Augusta Savage sculpture and also help calm traffic.

Chairman Davis asked DIA staff to incorporate the suggestions from the discussion and provide an updated map for the next meeting.

VI. LAVILLA LOGO CALL TO ARTIST UPDATE – CHAIRMAN DAVIS

Chairman Davis provided an update on the Call to Artist, stating that they have identified a nationally recognized street artist and street photographer with a LaVilla heritage to help inform the Call to Artist. The artist's name is Malcolm Jackson, and he will be attending the next meeting to present to the committee a proposed process.

VII. OTHER MATTERS TO BE ADDED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Davis opened the floor for comments from the committee or members of the public.

Tom Larson Spoke in support of the committee's work and the development of ideas to enhance LaVilla and preserve its deep history; urged the committee to also consider markers or nodes that encourage the people to get out of their cars and engage with the community; suggested expanding the tree canopy as part of the planning.

CM Urso gave a presentation on historical figures from LaVilla.

Regarding the Call to Artist for a logo, CM Phelts presented to the committee a photo of a lithograph created by a student at Stanton in 2004 as part of a Congressional Black Caucus art show to give the committee an idea of what the community is capable of.

CEO Boyer suggested having banners in a row along a segment of Ashley Street or following the Emerald Trail through LaVilla that have the faces of LaVilla's historical figures.

CM Washington provided flyers to the committee from the historical jazz festival that recently took place in LaVilla; it was the first one in 40 years.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be on Friday, September 2nd in the Lynwood Roberts Room in City Hall at 2:00 p.m.

Seeing no further matters for discussion, Chairman Davis provided closing remarks and adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed. For verbatim comments of this meeting, a recording is available upon request. Please contact Xzavier Chisholm at xchisholm@coj.net to acquire a recording of the meeting.

DRAFT

TAB V

LAVILLA HERITAGE TRAIL (COMMITTEE ACTION) – CHAIRMAN DAVIS

LEGEND

-  Original LaVilla Boundary
-  DIA LaVilla Overlay District
-  Emerald Trail Model Mile
-  Civic Uses
-  Interior Parks
-  Riverfront Parks
-  **First Priority:** Sites Identified by 2018 Civil Rights Taskforce
-  **Second Priority:** Significant Sites Identified by Committee that still exist (within Downtown Boundary)
-  **Remaining Sites:** Remaining Sites Identified by Committee
-  LaVilla Neighborhood Development Strategy Gateway Entry Sites
-  Additional Gateway Entry Sites Recommended by Committee Members

1. Ritz Theatre & Museum
2. Lift Ev'ry Voice & Sing Park (Birthplace of Johnson Brothers)*
3. Brewster Hospital
4. Historic Shotgun Houses*
5. Genovars Hall/Lenape Bar/Wynn Hotel
6. Old Stanton School
7. Clara White Mission/Globe Theatre
8. Broad Street/Colored Man's Railroad/J. Douglas Wetmore
9. Boylan Industrial Training School for Girls
10. Lawton Pratt Funeral Home
11. Start of the Great Fire of 1901
12. Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge (Masonic Temple)
13. Jacksonville Terminal*
14. Faith United Church of the Living God
15. Central Hotel
16. Broad and Ashley
17. Richmond Hotel
18. Whetstonian (Stardust Club)
19. Second Missionary Baptist Church
20. Odd Fellows Lodge
21. St. Philip's Episcopal Church
22. Jenkins Quality Barbecue
23. Young Men's Hebrew Association (Maceo Elks Lodge)
24. Pedro Mendez House
25. 316-318 & 320-322 Jefferson St. Residences (early Jewish immigrant community)
26. 324 N. Broad (built by Edward D. Mixson - Gullah developer)
27. El Modelo Cigar Factory (early Cuban immigrant community)
28. Jacksonville Belt Railroad
29. USNR Warehouses
30. Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company
31. A.L. Lewis Elementary School Site
32. Florida C. Dwight Memorial Playground (LaVilla Park)
33. Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church
34. Brick Church Cemetery
35. Anointed Church of God
36. Duval Market & Association
37. Railway Express Agency
38. LaVilla Grammar Public School
39. Patrick Chappelle's Residence
40. The Line (Red Light District)
41. Railroad Row Business District (early Greek immigrant community)
42. Davis Street Neighborhood Business District
43. Fort Hatch (USCT Civil War History)
44. West Adams Street (early Chinese immigrant community)
45. Atlantic & East Coast Terminal Company Freight Depot
46. Blodgett Homes Public Housing Complex
47. Site of Strand Theater
48. Hotel de Dream
49. James "Charlie Edd" Craddock/Charlie Edd Hotel
50. Haynes Luncheonette
51. Colored Airdome/Hollywood Music Store
52. Manuel's Tap Room
53. E.L. Weems Residence and Studio
54. Ray Charles Residence
55. Excelsior Hall (first Black-owned theater)

*Sites linked to Groundwork Jacksonville and Jessie Ball DuPont Fund projects

