



Meeting of the Black Heritage Preservation Commission

April 16, 2026 6:30 PM
City Hall Room 101 & Zoom

NOTE: The April 16, 2026 Black Heritage Preservation Commission meeting was held in person and online via Zoom.

Members: Minister Monique Jones, Chair Lois Bryant, Shawn Walker, Janet Allured, Braziel Hatch, and Neikeita Mitchell

City Staff: Kylee Cole – Long Range & Preservation Planner, Britin Bostick - Long Range Planning & Special Projects Manager

Call to Order: 6:31pm

In Attendance: Lois Bryant, Wendell Huggins, Shawn Walker, Braziel Hatch, Janet Allured, Neikeita Mitchell, Kylee Cole, and Britin Bostick.

Approval of Minutes from the January 15, 2026, February 19, 2026, and March 19, 2026

Meetings: Motion to accept by Commissioner Hatch, second my Commissioner Mitchell. Approved unanimously by voice vote.

Unfinished Business

Henderson School Historic Marker Update: Bostick recapped the prior discussions and showed pricing for the cast bronze and stainless steel options. Commissioners discussed the merits of the marker standing out versus blending into the surroundings. Commissioner Mitchell recommended QR code stickers to link to web pages that provide more information that did not fit on the marker itself. Commissioner Allured expressed a preference for the larger size. Bostick realized there may still be an edit need for clarity on the text and will send the text out via email. Wording and size to be decided at the May meeting, and Chair Bryant asked Commissioners to let staff know if they will miss the meeting and want to share their preference for consideration.

Southeast Fayetteville Local Historic District Proposal: Cole summarized the purpose of a local historic district and the intent of the petition for this district. She also noted the differences between a National Register Historic District (honorary) and a local historic district (regulations). A petition to create this district was submitted to the City Clerk Treasurer's office and Cole has reviewed the petition and drafted a report for the Historic District Commission. While the state law establishing the path to create a district does not include the BHPC, staff is still consulting with the commission as this proposed district goes through the process and the Commission is requested to make comments for the Historic District Commission's consideration.

Cole presented a series of slides with information about the petition signatures, the boundaries proposed by the district, the intent to establish a district that focused on the history of Black

ownership, and for which properties Cole has been able to find information confirming Black ownership. She noted an area that she was not able to find or confirm a history of Black ownership, and that rental property may not have public records or records she could access that would confirm Black residency. She additionally noted currently and historically vacant properties within the proposed boundaries.

Following her research, Cole is providing a preliminary recommendation to amend the petition boundary so that the district would focus on remaining historic structures that were and, in many cases, still are in Black ownership. As the purpose of a historic district is to protect existing historic buildings, Cole's report and recommendation propose to focus the district boundaries on those buildings still existing and consider a second, related but separate district, that would not be focused on the historic working class neighborhood that also extends to the west of the proposed district and is south of the Downtown area. This proposal from Cole comes in part from the recommendations of the Historic Context Statement for the Historic Black Community of Southeast Fayetteville and Phase 1 of the Citywide Historic Resource Survey, which has just been completed for the southeast quarter of the city.

Cole shared with the Commission additional steps to the creation of the local historic district which would formally recognize the neighborhood history, create policies for place names that remove names that were established without consulting the neighborhood (i.e. "Spout Spring") and that give consideration to neighborhood name preferences.

Commissioner Hatch inquired about developing an economic development plan. Cole replied that staff has not received that request yet but staff can ask what that process would look like and who would be responsible for bringing that forward. Bostick elaborated on the expected stabilizing effects of a local historic district on a rapidly changing neighborhood, but also that this is a new process for Fayetteville so there is not yet a precedent to observe. Due to the rigid process and framework prescribed by the state for the creation of local historic districts there is not at this time much opportunity to include economic development planning or factors, but staff is ready to continue to work with the neighborhood on other needs outside of the requested historic district.

Announcements:

- Bostick announced events for the Downtown Plan starting May 2 at the Farmer's Market in the morning and at Fayetteville Public Library in the afternoon.
- Commissioner Allured thanked the Commission for the Theresa Hoover marker and unveiling event, which well and was well received. Archival documents have been provided to the State Archives and other archives.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 7:31pm.