



COLUMBIA ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 PM by Chair Edward H. McDowell.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Edward H. McDowell	☒	☐	☐	
Sam Davis	☒	☐	☐	
Howard E. Duvall	☒	☐	☐	

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Renaming of the Park at Bull Street - Mr. Henry Simons, MHA, Assistant City Manager

Dr. Bobby Donaldson, University of South Carolina / Director for the Center for Civil Rights History and Research said the Bull Street property is going to be an extraordinary contribution to the City of Columbia and it will be a place of contemplation. I underscore any efforts to use this space as a classroom, as well.

Ms. Robin Waites, Executive Director for Historic Columbia presented a list of nominations for the naming of the park at Bull Street:

- The Thompson Family - Samuel Benjamin Thompson, a well-known elected official during the Reconstruction Era; E. B. Thompson, one founder of St. Luke's Episcopal Church; Carolina Thompson Austin, one of this City's first black businesswomen; and Clarissa Thompson Allen, an early attendee of the University of South Carolina after it was integrated. She also wrote fiction stories.
- Dr. Alonzo C. McClennan - a member of the Thompson Family. He attended Benedict Institute and the University of South Carolina. He was later appointed as a legislative page and served as the second black midshipman at the US Naval Academy in 1893.
- Page Ellington - a skilled builder and architect. It is believed that he was actively engaged in design and construction on the Bull Street Campus. He was also very involved in city politics during the Reconstruction Era. He was a member of the Washington Street Methodist Church, Bethel AME, and Ladson Presbyterian.



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- Dr. J. D. Harris - assistant physician at the asylum during 1870. He was a figure of national significance. Unlike the other nominees, he was born a free person in North Carolina and chose to come to South Carolina. He is credited with being the first African-American physician at the Bull Street Campus. He was a Union Army surgeon during the civil war and a member of the Freedmen's Bureau in 1865-1866.
- Senator William Beverly Nash - chair of the Asylum Board of Regents for several years. He was one of four electors to attend the 1868 Constitutional Convention. He served on the South Carolina Senate from 1868 until 1877. He became one of the most influential and well-respected politicians in Richland County. He was one of the wealthiest African-Americans in the City during the Reconstruction Era and is now featured in the new African-American History Museum in Washington, DC. He is buried at the Historic Randolph Cemetery.
- Benjamin H. Campbell - worked at the asylum in the 1880s. He maintained a greenhouse and avidly pursued horticulture. The Clarkson House was known for its landscaped and still stands at the corner of Blanding Street and Bull Street.

Dr. Bobby Donaldson, University of South Carolina / Director for the Center for Civil Rights History and Research presented the following additional nominations:

- Dr. Matilda Evans - the second African American woman in South Carolina to receive a license to practice medicine. She was a prominent civic leader and a thoroughfare at Bull Street is named for her.
- I. S. Leevy - the undertaker for the State hospital complex. He was a prominent businessman who was deeply involved in civil rights. He was one of the founders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and a close advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was a real force in the Republican Party and he had a prominent business in the historic African American business corridor on Washington Street.
- Rev. James M. Hinton - a World War II veteran, a very prominent insurance agent, and president of the South Carolina NAACP. He was also pastor of the Second Calvary Baptist Church when it was located on Bull Street. During his tenure, he was a chaplain for negro patients in the state asylum at Bull Street and what is now known as Crafts-Farrow. He lived on Heidt Street.



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- Rev. C. J. Whitaker - leader from the Greenview Community. He was president of the North Columbia Civic Club. He was an employee of the Crafts-Farrow facility. A street sign honors Rev. Whitaker in the Greenview Community.
- Modjeska Monteith Simkins - strong Civil Rights leader and a champion for African American mental health.
- Richland County Citizens Committee - an organization largely of women who joined Ms. Simkins in voter registration campaigns. They challenged desegregation in public schools and the living conditions of patients in state mental health properties. Ms. Beatrice McKnight was a member and later became a real force with the Columbia Urban League.
- Dr. Harry Wright - graduate of the University of South Carolina, Wharton School of Business, and the University of Pennsylvania. One of the most prominent African American child psychiatrists in the country. He did his early work at the William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute on the Bull Street property. He was one of the early supporters of the Mann-Simons Cottage.
- Dr. John C. Bull - graduate of Claflin University and the Meharry School of Medicine. He was a prominent civil rights leader and physician in Spartanburg. He was the first African American member of the State Mental Health Commission.
- Hillard Bell - cook on the Bull Street property who lived near the corner of Harden Street and Calhoun Street.
- Page Ellington - We should give his name serious consideration. It is about the largely unknown figures who built that property and caused it to sustain to the level it has today.

Councilor Duvall noted that 2021 is the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Mental Health Institute. The Mental Health Commission will be having a yearlong celebration.

Mr. Robert Hughes, President of Hughes Development Corporation said another name is Septima Poinsette Clark; one of the first graduates of Benedict College, an African American teacher, and a civil rights activist.

Councilor Davis said the hidden gratitude is that some of the folks we are highlighting did not have economic success, although their efforts contributed to the success of others. I hope that is part of the message.



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Mr. Robert Hughes, President of Hughes Development Corporation said we should seek public input but this committee will make the ultimate recommendation to City Council. We wrote an outline for a public process and secured a domain name. We hope for a grand opening celebration during the spring.

Councilor McDowell said we wanted to do this in a transparent way. We want to invite you all back again as we continue this conversation.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said you have to put it out in a way that directs what you will receive back. You need to have some parameters.

Councilor Duvall said an individual has to be deceased. We would like for the individual to have a significant connection with the mental health services provided on the Bull Street property; the construction of the buildings on the Bull Street property; or to the 200-year history of mental health in South Carolina.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said you should put out examples and let the public weigh in on those examples. You can have an additional method for them to provide their own ideas in line with what you are trying to achieve.

Councilor McDowell said we can use names and a theme.

There was a consensus of the committee to allow Assistant City Manager Henry Simons and Robert Hughes to develop criteria and to coordinate the public input process with review by City Manager Teresa Wilson prior to the next committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk