

**Annual Meeting of the Virginia-Highland Conservation League
Minutes: September 4, 2024**

Board members present:

Catherine Lewis
Peggy Berg
Chip Bullock
Jess Liddick

Board members absent with notice:

Pat Penn
Barry Loudis
Guests:
Jack White
Jim Coe

Report on Todd Memorial: Monument is installed and a ceremony including the Todd and Liddell family was successfully held.

A ceremony marking the formal rededication of the Todd Family Memorial in North Highland Park was held last month on August 24, 2024. The VHCA Historic Preservation Committee hosted a formal dedication of the relocated Todd Family Memorial. Family members attended on behalf of the Todds; some traveled a considerable distance for the event. The event then traveled to the original site of the memorial on Ponce de Leon Terrace for a remembrance and reflection on its long tenure on family land and its unexpected displacement. At the event, the family expressed their deep appreciation for the unrelenting efforts of the VHCA in recovering and repairing the discarded and damaged marker. Committee members present were Lola Carlisle, Karri Hobson-Pape, Catherine Lewis, Jess Liddick, Robin Ragland, and Jack White. The gathering was warm and collegial and provided some degree of emotional closure to a sorrowful event in this neighborhood's history.

The committee is planning formal landscaping around the base of the monument later this fall. The park's landscape architect, Peter Frawley, has made proposals. A motion to proceed thoughtfully and retain the balance of the remaining funding for future needs and eventualities was made and passed unanimously.

Report on FS 19: Panels are under development showing the history of FS 19, to be installed at the Fire Station. A Century of Service event is planned at FS 19 for October 6, 2024 funded by the VHCA Historic Preservation Committee. VHCA paid for the design. There will be costs totaling about \$1,200 for panel design, production, and installation as well as a banner.

Motion: If there is a funding shortfall for the panels, banner and installation, VHCL will fund the shortfall up to \$1,200. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Report on John Howell Park: Tree survey, stormwater engineering, and landscape architecture services have been paid in 2024 by VHCL for the renovation project at JHP. Estimates for the full project are coming in around \$1.4-\$1.7 million to remove and replace the playground, create a stormwater mitigation space, put turn on the oval, revive the lawn, install new benches/water fountains, and install slides and stairs in the hillside zone.

A committee has been established to fundraise for the renovation. It recommends a governance structure for a fundraising organization dedicated to the effort. After a discussion of the options, the VHCL board supported the creation of an LLC in which VHCL would be a sole member. FoJHP would have a dedicated board and bank account. VHCL will have representation on the Friends of JHP, LLC board.

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Motion by Peggy Berg: To approve the creation of a single member LLC for the Friends of John Howell Park and authorize up to \$1500 in expenditures to set up Friends of JHP, LLC. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Motion by Peggy Berg: VHCL will provide banking services through its bank account until Friends of JHP, LLC is set up, has a board, and has a bank account. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Report on Orme Park: A dedicated group of volunteers have a Friends of Orme Park group recognized by Park Pride and continue to host consistent clean up events dedicated to removing invasives from the park. The check for the park bench was reissued in 2024, having been returned in November 2023. VHCL funds have not been used on any improvements in 2024.

Report on North Highland Park: Path improvement project is complete. VHCL funds have not been used on any other improvements in 2024.

Board operations: Motion by Catherine Lewis: To bring Jim Coe and Mary Frances Jones onto the VHCL Board. Seconded and passed unanimously.

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VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND CONSERVATION LEAGUE			
BALANCE SHEET - August 8, 2024			
Last Updated - 08/08/2024			
ASSETS			
	Current Assets		\$0
	Checking	\$100,699.37	
	Savings	\$0	
	Fixed Assets	\$0	
TOTAL ASSETS			\$100,699.37
BUDGETED ACCOUNTS			
		Balance	Restricted? (Y/N)
Fire Station 19		\$0.00	Y
General Fund and Operating Expenses		\$15,754.12	N
Historical Projects		\$276.15	Y
John Howell Park		\$67,859.01	Y
North Highland Park		\$2,178.12	Y
Orme Park		\$11,562.43	Y
Todd Memorial		\$3,069.54	Y
TOTAL BUDGETED ACCOUNTS			\$100,699.37
ASSETS MINUS BUDGETED ACCOUNTS			\$0.00