



MOTION: FRYE
SECOND: DEVINE

November 12, 2019
Regular Meeting
Resolution 19-100

RE: Granting a Certificate of Appropriateness for the Relocation of the Slave Auction Block to the Fredericksburg Area Museum

ACTION: APPROVED: Ayes: 6; Nays: 1

In August 2017, Councilmember Frye proposed that the City Council consider the removal of the slave auction block from the corner of Charles and William Streets. In response, the Council created a public input process that included an online survey and special session of the Council to hear public comment on the matter, which was held on September 23, 2017. At the conclusion of this process, on September 26, 2017, the City Council voted to leave the slave auction block in place.

In January 2018, City Council hired the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC) to conduct a year-long community collaboration process, facilitating community conversations in small group settings, in which hundreds of people participated. The ICSC submitted three written reports to City Council, one at the conclusion of each phase of its work. The reports summarized the views of the community expressed through the community collaboration process. The Phase 3 Final Report was released on March 13, 2019 at a special meeting of the City Council, and contained the ICSC's recommendations for immediate, short term, and long-term actions, including with respect to the future treatment of the slave auction block.

In January 2019, Dovetail Cultural Resources completed an archaeological study of the slave auction block, the former Planter's Hotel, and the corner of Charles and William Street, and submitted its report to the City.

On June 11, 2019, the City Council voted to remove the slave auction block from the corner of Charles and William Streets and to relocate it to the Fredericksburg Area Museum. On July 9, 2019, the City Council approved the City Manager's proposed course of action to effect the relocation, including the filing of an application for a certificate of appropriateness from the Architectural Review Board (ARB). The City Manager filed the application, dated July 22, 2019.

The ARB considered the application at a public hearing on August 12, 2019, and then at its regular meeting on September 9, 2019; a work session on September 23, 2019; and its regular session on October 14, 2019. The ARB received public comment on the application at each of these meetings. At the October 14, 2019 meeting, a motion to deny the application failed on a vote of two in favor, one against, and three abstaining. One member of the ARB was disqualified from voting under the Conflicts of Interest Act. The ARB's 90 day review period expired October 20, 2019.

The City Manager appealed the ARB's non-action to City Council under City Code §72-23.1(F), and City Council heard the appeal on November 12, 2019.

FILED

DEC 27 2019

FREDERICKSBURG
CIRCUIT COURT

In view of the foregoing, and upon consideration of applicable criteria in City Code §72-23.1(D)(3), the remarks of the ARB members and consultation with the chair of the ARB, the public comment, the staff report dated August 7, 2019, and the letter of the City Attorney dated October 4, 2019, the City Council hereby grants a certificate of appropriateness for the relocation of the slave auction block to the Fredericksburg Area Museum.

The Clerk of Council shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the chair of the ARB.

This resolution shall become effective immediately.

Votes:

Ayes: Greenlaw, Withers, Devine, Duffy, Frye, Graham

Nays: Kelly

Absent from Vote: None

Absent from Meeting: None

Clerk's Certificate

I certify that I am Clerk of Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 19-, adopted at a meeting of the City Council held November 12, 2019, at which a quorum was present and voted.



Toriya B. Lacey, MMC
Clerk of Council