

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2019

Robert A. Pettit, Mayor

Charles Allen, Committee member

Pat C. Carpenter, Committee member

Tony Carr, Committee member

John Felak, Committee member

Trina Mackie, Committee member

David W. McGhee, Committee member

Milledge Murray, Committee member

Mandy Nelson, Committee ex officio member, non-voting

Mark Newell, Committee member

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Calhoun Park Committee meeting of the City of North Augusta of November 5, 2019, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Mayor Pettit at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Conference room on the third floor of the Municipal Center and adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Per Section 30-4-80(e) notice of the meeting was posted on the outside doors of the Municipal Center, the main bulletin board of the Municipal Center located on the first floor, and the City of North Augusta website.

Present were Mayor Pettit, Charles Allen, Trina Mackie, Councilmember David McGhee, Milledge Murray, and Mark Newell. Councilmember Pat Carperter, John Felak, Mandy Nelson, and Tony Carr were absent. Also in attendance were Rachelle Moody, Interim City Administrator, and Sharon Lamar, City Clerk. A member of the media was also present.

The minutes of the October 8, 2019 meeting were accepted and approved by general consent.

Final Review of RFP for Sculpture/Display

While there was general agreement that the RFP was complete, the committee requested the RFP for the Sculpture/Display project be emailed again to the members for one last review before final approval. (See ATTACHMENT 1)

Review Draft Report to Council

John Felak and Mayor Pettit worked to compose a report for Council which includes a proposal to enhance Calhoun Park. (See ATTACHMENT 2)

Mayor Pettit distributed and discussed the “Meriwether Monument Committee report to Council.” The report details the overall considerations and premises that were explored by the Committee. The two profound recommendations that come with this report are Calhoun Park is the logical place to present information about the events of July 8th and 9th, 1876 and the Carsville area (on Barton Road) is appropriate to be developed as an African-American historical district. The Committee believes a two-phased approach for Calhoun Park should be implemented.

Trina Mackie recommended a change to the fifth item of the “Conclusions/Recommendations.” She suggested removing “to visually compete with the monument” and add “acknowledging and honoring the seven African-American men killed in the Hamburg Massacre.” The Committee agreed with this amendment.

Mark Newell and Milledge Murrary were tasked to provide the additional text needed to transition the “Conclusions /Recommendations” portion to the RFP for the Structure/Display project.

The Committee will not meet in the month of December, but will individually read and consider the RFP and Report to Council. The next Calhoun Park Committee meeting will be Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Center in Council’s Conference Room.

The Committee’s plan moving forward is to present the RFP and report to Council at its February 3rd, 2020 regular City Council meeting.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF
JANUARY, 2020.

Robert A. Pettit, Mayor

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Lamar

Sharon Lamar
City Clerk

ATTACHMENT 1

OVERVIEW

The City of North Augusta, South Carolina desires to establish a memorial to be installed in the city-owned Calhoun Park. This memorial will be a counterpoint to the Thomas McKie Meriwether Monument located prominently in Calhoun Park. The text on the Meriwether Monument focuses on Anglo-Saxon heritage (Attachment 1). This text is incongruous and offensive to present day residents of North Augusta.

The City believes a new sculpture installed in Calhoun Park as a key part of the memorial is the appropriate way to achieve the stated objective. The City also believes that designing the memorial requires persons with special talents and is soliciting design proposals. The City has budgeted \$50,000 for memorial design, fabrication and installation.

This document provides the history, project objective, design requirements, submission requirements and selection process for persons interested in making a proposal.

HISTORY

In the now-extinct town of Hamburg, SC (near present-day North Augusta), events which occurred over the course of six days in July 1876 influenced the outcome of the Presidential Election of 1876 between Rutherford B. Hayes and Samuel Tilden, and ultimately led to the end of Reconstruction in the United States. The events in Hamburg began on July 4 and culminated in a gun battle over several hours that ended in the early morning hours of July 9.

Mr. Meriwether, a white man, was killed early in the fight between the town militia composed of African-Americans and a militant group of local white citizens. His death enraged the white citizens, and by daybreak on the morning of July 9, seven African-Americans were dead. Three died while trying to escape from the second floor of the Sibley Building where they had gathered prior to the gunfire beginning. Four African-Americans were shot after being selected from 25-30 who had been captured and held in a group. Three died immediately and the fourth died the next day in a hospital in Augusta, Georgia, across the Savannah River from Hamburg. This event is referred to today as the Hamburg Massacre.

In 1916, under an act of the South Carolina general assembly, an obelisk was erected by the state in memory of Mr. Meriwether in North Augusta's Calhoun Park. Calhoun Park is prominently located in the North Augusta; it is triangular in shape, and bounded by Georgia, Carolina, and Forest Avenues. Today, there are two prominent features in Calhoun Park; the statue of the City's founder, James U. Jackson, and the obelisk in remembrance of Thomas McKie Meriwether (Figure 1). There is also a fountain within a small water feature.

OBJECTIVE

The objective is to create a memorial in reverence, respect, honor, and veneration for the African-Americans who died in the Hamburg Massacre. The intent is not to simply present information about the Hamburg Massacre, but to be a destination for visitors to recognize and contemplate the profound influence that the Hamburg Massacre had on our Nation.

While the memorial will incorporate many aspects, a sculpture honoring the seven African-American men who were killed at Hamburg be the primary aspect. The sculpture should be the focal point of the memorial. Other aspects of the memorial should include light and historical information.

DESIGN

The following guidelines are set forth for memorial design:

1. The existing Meriwether Monument's location, structure, and text will remain unchanged.
2. The new memorial shall:
 - a. Be within a defined, distinct area in the park.
 - b. Include a sculpture designed as a counterpoint to the Meriwether Monument; it must be of a size, character and setting to not give the impression the Meriweather Monument is dominant.
 - c. Include lighting: as either a focal point or supporting effects.
 - d. Include permanently-installed features (sculptures, kiosks, plaques, etc.), separate from the sculpture, to convey historical information.
 - e. Present the historical information to visitors providing a counterpoint to the text on the Meriwether Monument. The information should include, at minimum:
 - i. a summary of the events which transpired at Hamburg,
 - ii. the names of the African-American men killed during the incident, with acknowledgement of the circumstances of their deaths,
 - iii. the accomplishments of the African-American citizens during that period, to include the founding of Aiken County.
 - iv. information connecting the events at Hamburg in the context of the Nation's Reconstruction experience. (Attachment 2)

ELIGIBILITY

This request for proposals is open to United States-based designers – artists, sculptors, architects, landscape architects, etc. Proposals may be submitted from individuals or a collaborative team. Proposals will be accepted from designers of all levels: students, amateurs and/or professionals.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Effectiveness in honoring the African-Americans who died at Hamburg
2. Creativity and originality
3. Use of lighting
4. Provision of historical information providing a counterpoint to the Meriweather Monument
5. Location of the memorial within Calhoun Park
6. Appropriateness of scale to the Meriwether Monument and Calhoun Park

SUBMISSION, REVIEW & SELECTION PROCESS

Persons or teams wishing to submit a proposal must indicate their interest to STAFF PERSON at EMAIL ADDRESS by DATE.

Questions regarding memorial design should be submitted by DATE; responses to questions will be emailed to all interested parties by DATE.

Preliminary designs should be submitted to STAFF PERSON at EMAIL ADDRESS by DATE. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.

Preliminary design submissions should include: 1) sketch of the memorial layout within Calhoun Park, 2) sketch and description of a sculpture or monument proposed, 3) sketch and/or description of historical information pieces, and 4) sketch and/or description of how light will be incorporated. Budget proposals are NOT required for preliminary design submissions. Photos of another memorial serving as inspiration are acceptable.

Proposals will be evaluated by a review committee. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed. Three finalists will be selected and provided further instructions to prepare a full proposal with details of the proposed memorial, sketches, a scale model layout, specifications (with component materials identified), and budget for design, fabrication and installation. Submission date for full proposals is yet to be determined.

The full proposals will be publically displayed at the North Augusta Municipal Building for residents to view and provide comments.

Resident comments will be collected and considered by the review committee. The review committee will select two proposals for Council review. North Augusta City Council will make final determination regarding the winning proposal.

All design submittals remain the intellectual property of the submitter and will not be used or shared in any way, other than as specified in this document, without the written permission of the submitter.

Following conclusion of the final selection process, models not selected will be available for submitted pick-up.

TIMELINE

Request for Proposals Issued	Start Date
Deadline for preliminary proposal	+ Six Weeks from Start Date
Finalists Selected and Notified	+ Eight Weeks from Start Date
Full Proposals Due	+ Twelve Weeks from Start Date
Public Display of Presentations	+ Thirteen Weeks for Start Date
Final Design Selected by City Council	+ Sixteen Weeks from Start Date
Notice to Proceed Issued	+ Twenty Weeks from Start Date

FIGURE 1

Calhoun Pak



Total area is one acre.

ATTACHMENT 1

Text on the Meriwether Monument.

Dec 4, 1852 – July 8, 1876
In Memory of THOMAS McKIE MERIWETHER

Who on 8th July 1876, gave his life that the civilization builded by his fathers might be preserved for their childrens children unimpaired.

Second Panel

In youths glad morning the unfinished years of manhood stretching before him, with clear knowledge and courageous willingness, he accepted death and found forever the grateful remembrance of all who know high and generous service in the maintaining of those civic and social institutions which the men and women of his race had struggled through the centuries to establish in South Carolina.

What more can a man do than to lay down his life.

Third Panel

In life he exemplified the highest ideal of Anglo-Saxon civilization. By his death he assured to the children of his beloved land the supremacy of that ideal.

“As his flame of life was quenched, it lit the blaze of victory”

Fourth Panel

This memorial is erected to the young hero of the Hamburg Riot, by the state, under an act of the general assembly, with the aid of admiring friends.

ATTACHMENT 2

- v. a summary of the events which transpired at Hamburg,
- vi. the names of the African-American men killed during the incident, with acknowledgement of the circumstances of their deaths,
- vii. the accomplishments of the African-American citizens during that period, to include the founding of Aiken County,
- viii. information connecting the events at Hamburg in the context of the Nation's Reconstruction experience.

i. & ii.

Hamburg, located on the banks of the Savannah River was a prosperous town as the western-most terminus of the Charleston-Hamburg Railroad, completed in 1833.

Hamburg declined economically after 1854 when the railroad line crossed the river and directly connected Augusta, Georgia with the coast.

Following the end of the Civil War, the town was predominantly populated by African-Americans.

The African-Americans in Hamburg were celebrating the Centennial anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1876. The militia was executing series of precision drills on the main thoroughfare, 100-150 feet wide and overgrown with grass, except the part used as a carriage-road.

Thomas Butler and Henry Getzen came along in a carriage and demanded the marchers move aside to allow them to pass.

Doc Adams, Commander of the militia halted the company, and he expressed his displeasure with Butler and Getzen for interfering. He told them there was plenty of room on each side to pass by. When it became apparent they were unwilling to go around the militia, Adams opened ranks and allowed them to drive through.

The next day, Thomas Butler returned and requested a warrant against Doc Adams for blocking the street. The hearing was scheduled for Saturday afternoon, July 8th 1876.

The attorney for Thomas Butler, Matthew C. Butler (previously a Confederate General), initiated talks between both sides. While the talks were going on a crowd of 200-300 armed white men assembled in Hamburg and demanded the militia should surrender their arms.

The militia gathered in the second story of the Sibley building. The militia refused to give up the arms.

The armed white men, gathered on the river bank, soon began to fire toward the Sibley Building. The militia returned the fire, and McKie Meriwether was shot through the head, and instantly died.

An artillery piece from Augusta fired four charges of canister at the building without injuring any one. While activity around the cannon attracted the attention of many of the white men, the men in the armory escaped from the rear by means of ladders, and hid anywhere they could find shelter. One African-American man, James Cook, was hit by five or six bullets as he exited from the rear of the Sibley building and died.

The white men took about twenty-five African-American men as prisoners following their escape from the Sibley building and placed them within a circle of armed men. Six of these men were subsequently murdered.

Allen T. Attaway was the first one taken out of the "ring" and shot to death. David Phillips was similarly killed. Albert Myniart, Moses Parks, and Hampton Stephens were also similarly killed.

Corporal Nelder John Parker was captured and taken to the prisoners' location and later wounded by a shot in the back. He was taken to a hospital in Augusta where he died the next day.

Three African-American men were wounded, but survived. Butler Edwards was shot in the head after being told to run. Willis Davis was shot in the arm near the elbow. Pompey Curry was called out from the "ring." He was shot in the leg as he ran, but also survived.

The next morning, July 9, Prince Rivers, the African-American judge in Hamburg convened a coroners' inquest. When the inquest was over, Rivers issued arrest warrants for eighty-seven white men, including Mathew C. Butler, future South Carolina Senator, and Ben Tillman, future South Carolina governor.

No one was ever convicted of the murder of the African-Americans.

iii.
To be added.

iv.
To be added

Meriwether Monument Committee report to Council

The Calhoun Park Committee

The following is the recommendation to City Council for the proposal to enhance Calhoun Park as an educational display concerning the Hamburg Massacre of 1876.

This report is submitted in accordance the directives within City Council *Resolution 2019-10, A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FINDINGS ABOUT THE HAMBURG INCIDENT OF 1876 AND APPOINTING MEMBERS OF A COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE OPTIONS FOR AN ADDITIONAL DISPLAY IN JOHN C. CALHOUN PARK.*

Overall considerations and premises explored by the Committee:

- The Committee has been well represented from a variety of elected and volunteer community leaders of different backgrounds to complete our assigned task
- City Council has decided the Meriwether Monument should remain unaltered in Calhoun Park.
- Historical markers are already positioned at various locations in the city.
 - The Carrsville area (on Barton Road) is the location of both the roadside marker about the Hamburg Massacre and the Monument to the eight men who died. These were dedicated in March 2016.
 - Roadside markers providing information about the City of Hamburg and the Hamburg-Charleston Railroad are located within the cloverleaf at Route 1 and Martintown Road.
- The residents of Hamburg moved uphill to Carrsville following the flood of 1929, which essentially destroyed Hamburg.
- First Providence Baptist Church, founded in 1860 in Hamburg, was relocated to Carrsville following the flood of 1929, about the same time the Society Building was constructed (1930).
- Having informational markers about the Hamburg Massacre in two locations (Carrsville and Calhoun Park) makes it difficult to provide a complete presentation at either location.
 - Calhoun Park is a well maintained and centrally located public space and is the logical place to present information about the events of July 8th and 9th, 1876. The primary basis for this conclusion is the location of the Meriwether Monument in the park.
 - Carrsville is appropriate to be developed as an African-American historical district. The Society Building and First Providence Baptist Church provide a foundation for presenting African-American accomplishments.
- We have found no supporting evidence the original name of “Calhoun Place” in the 1895 Boeckh land plot was ever officially changed to Calhoun Park.

Conclusions/Recommendations

1. The stories of the African American achievements and of the Hamburg Massacre and represent diametrically opposite experiences. To attempt to create an educational experience about both within Calhoun Park would do justice to neither. Therefore, this committee believes there are two areas within the City suitable for the displays and experiences: Calhoun Park for the Hamburg Massacre and Carrsville for African American achievements.
2. The Carrsville area of the City became the home of African-Americans who relocated following the flood of 1929. The First Providence Baptist Church and Society Building are suited to be the nucleus of what could become an African-American Historical District.
3. Educational features and exhibits about the accomplishments by African-Americans during Reconstruction could key elements of the display incorporated within the existing structures of First Providence Baptist Church and the Society Building.
4. Both the First Providence Baptist Church and the Society Building are privately owned, necessitating discussions with the owners. The Society Building would be an ideal facility to serve as a museum with information about African-American leaders of the Reconstruction era and their accomplishments. It may also be a suitable location for displays of Hamburg artifacts and exhibits.
5. Calhoun Park is inextricably linked to the Hamburg Massacre as a result of the Meriwether Monument being at a prominent location within the park. The committee focused jointly on the educational opportunity to counter the message on the Meriwether Monument and the need for a display or sculpture to visually compete with the monument.
6. The committee believes the funds necessary to construct a suitable sculpture at Calhoun Park will be a Capital Project, perhaps in the range of \$200,000. The committee also believes there would be an opportunity for shared public and private funding for the display.
7. Raising the funds necessary for this would take time and require an organized campaign. The committee believes a two-phased approach for Calhoun Park should be implemented. The initial phase would be possible with a small investment, in the range of \$10,000 to \$15,000, primarily to purchase and erect ___ additional markers within Calhoun Park surrounding the existing monument.
8. The following markers are recommended to be moved to (or within) Calhoun Park, positioned as shown on Attachment XX:
 - a. The existing sign at the concrete stairs to Calhoun Park, titled "*History of North Augusta*" (???)
 - b. The existing sign located at the Carrsville Community Building titled "The Hamburg Massacre"
 - c. The stone marker currently located at the Carrsville Community Building

9. Two new markers to reflect today's attitudes are recommended: These signs would be identical in design to the existing markers in the park

a. One would have the following text:

"In 1914, the S. C. Legislature passed a bill and donated \$400 towards the Meriwether Monument which honored the one white person who was killed in the Hamburg Massacre. A team of citizens chose this site to place the monument and private funds were raised to pay for the monument which was dedicated in 1916 and placed in what was then known as Calhoun Place.

Inscriptions on the monument reflect attitudes of people during that period. The inscriptions on the Meriwether Monument do not represent the attitudes and reflections of the people of North Augusta in 2019. We are a community represented by many people of different races and ethnic backgrounds and are bonded together by unity and common rights of citizenship. We choose to learn from our past and ensure that North Augusta's future reflects a high standard quality of life for all of its citizens. The events and legacy of Hamburg will not define us as a community."

b. A second sign would read:

"The 1868 South Carolina elections produced the first majority black state legislature in U.S. history. With the new South Carolina constitution having been created, Aiken County was formed from parts of Edgefield, Lexington, Barnwell and Orangeburg counties. It was the only county formed in South Carolina during the Reconstruction Era (1865-1877). March 10, 1871 is celebrated for Founders Day for Aiken County.

After the Civil War in 1865, nearby Hamburg, SC became a town where free blacks and freed slaves from southern plantations settled. Local government positions were held by black leaders. Prince Rivers was Trial Judge, Mayor and Commissioner of Aiken County. Samuel Lee was an attorney, County Commissioner and Speaker of the House in the SC Legislature. John Gardner started a school, was a teacher, principal and later Mayor."

c. The location of these markers will be at the corners of the concrete pad of the current monument. The side opposite the fountain will be the headstone naming the eight individuals killed in the Hamburg Massacre. The angle of installation shall be critical to the signage to give each added feature its' own sense of importance.

The Committee Members: Charles Allen, Pat Carpenter, Tony Carr, John Felak, Trina Mackie, David McGhee, Milledge Murray, Mandy Nelson, Mark Newell, and Bob Pettit,