



Selleck, Randy <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>

Fwd: Correcting the narrative / story map

45 messages

Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>

Tue, Jan 18, 2022 at 8:24 AM

To: Katherine Youngbluth <kate.youngbluth@vpra.virginia.gov>, "Selleck, Randy (DRPT)" <Randy.Selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>, "Harrington, Karen" <Karen.Harrington@hdrinc.com>, Kurtis Rogers <krogers@dovetailcrg.com>, "Lawless, Jessica" <jessica.lawless@kimley-horn.com>, "Glynn, Haley (DRPT)" <haley.glynn@drpt.virginia.gov>

All,

Lenora McQueen sent me an email last night regarding the StoryMap. See the bottom of this chain. She mentioned that the write ups for the two resources of concern to her (the two Shockoe cemetery resources) contained "misinformation." I wrote back and just asked her for clarification and got the data below. We thoroughly read the PIF to write these narratives, and the data presented comes from that document. There are a few directions we can go here and I've put a couple of suggestions below.

- She would like the direction updated from East to North. That is certainly an easy one. We were referring to its location within the city boundaries in general but she would like it in relation to the capital. I suggest we make this edit.

- She noted that the Shockoe Cemetery is the burial place for Richmond's elite. The language we used for marginalized communities is indeed based on the PIF but slight modifications to the language can certainly address her comment here. Perhaps we can author a revised sentence for this portion.

- Her comment on referring people to the PIF and adding more data is more problematic as we were careful to keep all narratives within a certain word count and consistent general tone and content. Maybe here we can somehow state this- we couldn't agree more that viewing more info on all of these resources is paramount to their true comprehension but it is impossible given the limits of the program and overall goal of the StoryMap. We'll need to work on some language here.

I have not yet replied to her as I am awaiting your feedback. I do think we need to be thoughtful in our approach or we may need to address similar comments up and down the corridor.

Thanks for your help,
Kerri

----- Forwarded message -----

From: LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net>

Date: Mon, Jan 17, 2022 at 10:55 PM

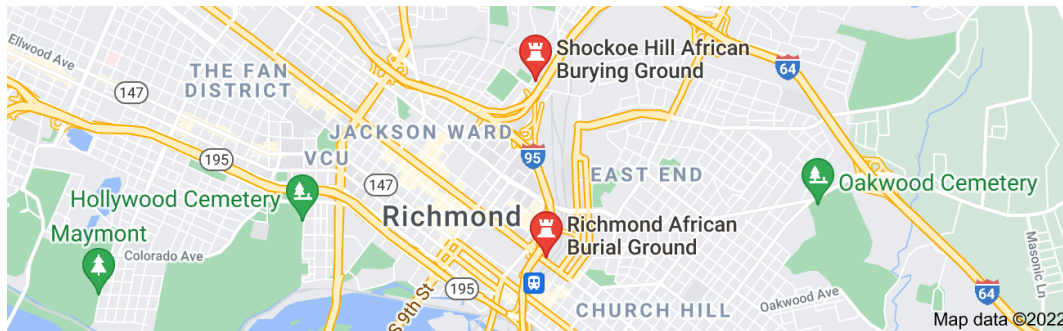
Subject: Re: Correcting the narrative / story map

To: Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>

Cc: Ana Edwards <ourrosewood@gmail.com>, Dan Mouer <danmouer@fastmail.fm>, Ellen Chapman <ellen.chapman@gmail.com>, Ryan Smith <rksmith3@vcu.edu>, Steve Thompson <iamsmt60@gmail.com>

Kerri,

thank you. I believe it would help the writer immensely to read the P.I.F. and Nomination in order to have a better understanding of the burial ground and the historic district. First the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District is not to the east of downtown. It is to the north of downtown (directly north of the State Capital).



Second, the district is made up of more than just The Shockoe Hill Cemetery, Hebrew Cemetery, Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground, and Almshouse. Also, those four do not represent the marginalization of several communities. The statement below is false. The Shockoe Hill Cemetery was the burying ground for Richmond's elite. One had to be able to afford a plot inside of the walls of the Shockoe Hill Cemetery. Supreme Court Justice John Marshall is buried in Shockoe Hill Cemetery. I am not under the impression that the people buried in the Hebrew Cemetery were marginalized either. The burial grounds were however segregated. Marginalized people were buried outside of the walls. The only one of the burial grounds impacted by modern development is the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground.

The statement "their importance is immense" would be more believable if the other information were correct. By that I mean caring enough to get it right.

I will get back to you on the entry for the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground.

Yours truly,

Lenora

Together, these four properties represent the marginalization of several communities, including African Americans, Jewish Americans, poor residents, and others who were relegated to burial on the outskirts of town due their place in society. All have been impacted by modern development but their importance is immense.

P.I.F.

https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/127-7231_Shockoe_Hill_Burying_Ground_HD_2020_PIF.pdf

Nomination

<https://www.richmondcemeteries.org/wp-content/uploads/ShockoeHillnominationpublicreview.pdf>

On Monday, January 17, 2022, 07:58:49 PM CST, Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com> wrote:

Thanks for your email! Please send any notes you may have my way and I will work with VPRA on the issues.

On Mon, Jan 17, 2022 at 8:49 PM LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net> wrote:

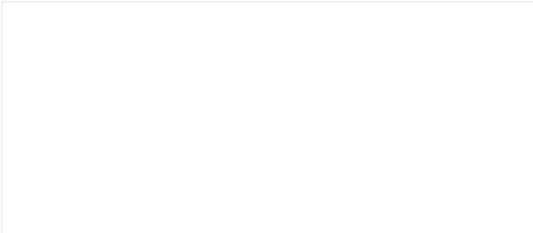
Dear Kerri;

who can I to talk to please regarding this story map? It contains misinformation on the Shockoe African Burying Ground and also the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District. I wish to ask for it to be corrected.

Yours truly,

Lenora

[A Journey Through the RF&P Corridor](#)



A Journey Through the RF&P Corridor

VPRA, DRPT, HDR, and Dovetail Cultural Resource Group

A map tour highlighting historic architectural resources and archaeological sites along the Richmond, Fredericks...

Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District

This historic district comprises a 40-acre area east of Richmond's downtown core. The district includes several 19th-century cemeteries and associated buildings and landscape features: the Almshouse, the Shockoe Hill Cemetery, the Hebrew Cemetery, and the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground. Together, these four properties represent the marginalization of several communities, including African Americans, Jewish Americans, poor residents, and others who were relegated to burial on the outskirts of town due their place in society. All have been impacted by modern development but their importance is immense.

Kerri Barile (Tambs), PhD, RPA | President
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11905 Bowman Drive, Suite 502, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22408

Email: kate.youngbluth@vpra.virginia.gov

Website: <http://www.vpra.virginia.gov>



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Press Inquiries

From: Selleck, Randy <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 11:03 AM
To: Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>
Cc: Katherine Youngbluth <kate.youngbluth@vpra.virginia.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: [External Sender] Fwd: Correcting the narrative / story map

Changing the salutation to fit the situation makes sense to me Kerri- is this okay with you Kate?

Randy Selleck, AICP | Director of Rail Planning & Environmental
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

600 E. Main Street | Suite 2101 | Richmond, VA 23219

Office: (804) 786-6791

Cell: (804) 316-8462

Email: Randy.Selleck@drpt.virginia.gov



[Press Inquiries](#)

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Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>
To: LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net>
Cc: Ana Edwards <ourrosewood@gmail.com>, Dan Mouer <danmouer@fastmail.fm>, Ellen Chapman <ellen.chapman@gmail.com>, Ryan Smith <rksmith3@vcu.edu>, Steve Thompson <iamsmt60@gmail.com>, Katherine Youngbluth <kate.youngbluth@vpra.virginia.gov>, "Selleck, Randy (DRPT)" <Randy.Selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>, "Harrington, Karen" <Karen.Harrington@hdrinc.com>

Thu, Jan 20, 2022 at 12:43 PM

Hi Lenora,

Thank you again for reaching out to me regarding the DRAFT DC2RVA StoryMap and for your comments. This website is in a draft form and is under internal review. We will edit the StoryMap with your comments in mind.

Since the StoryMap is not yet public I was surprised to receive your comments on a working draft of the document, which we had not advertised publicly. I apologize for any confusion that occurred upon your review of the draft text for the Shockoe Hill area. It would be helpful if you could let me know how you found the website; I would like to resolve this issue so that we do not create additional public confusion.

I want to assure you that the StoryMap will not be the only means of documenting the resources near Shockoe Hill. The site is intended to document the entire DC2RVA corridor at a high level.-When we move forward with the consultation process after completing the MOA, part of the discussion will include how and where to make the additional documentation for the Shockoe Hill-area resources publicly available.

We will continue to work on this website and will keep the public informed when it is ready to be released.

Thanks again!

Kerri

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11905 Bowman Drive, Suite 502, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22408
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LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net> Thu, Jan 20, 2022 at 2:07 PM
To: Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>
Cc: Ana Edwards <ourrosewood@gmail.com>, Dan Mouer <danmouer@fastmail.fm>, Ellen Chapman <ellen.chapman@gmail.com>, Ryan Smith <rksmith3@vcu.edu>, Steve Thompson <iamsmt60@gmail.com>, Katherine Youngbluth <kate.youngbluth@vpra.virginia.gov>, "Selleck, Randy (DRPT)" <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>, "Harrington, Karen" <karen.harrington@hdrinc.com>

Hello Kerri;

the site was posted very publicly. It came up in search results on the burial ground. Clicking on the search results took me directly into the full story map. I first came across it on January 11th, seeing the entry on the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground. Then on the day I wrote you I noticed the entry for the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District. After I wrote to you it still appeared in search results (it still does), but it is no longer publicly accessible by clicking on it. See images below.

Much more important than the DC2RVA high-speed rail project's posting of information on the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground and the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District is that if information is posted it needs to be accurate. If it is not going to be accurate, it shouldn't be posted. Misinformation only hurts this burial ground.

After conducting more than four years of extensive research, I have come to understand this burial ground and the historic district that we proposed very well. By we, I mean Doctors Mouer, Smith, Thompson, Chapman, and myself. We have meticulously researched and documented the burial ground and historic district. I hope you will lean towards the P.I.F., the nomination, and Dr. Smith's article when writing about the burial ground and historic district. I also hope that your project will give credit where credit is due. Unfortunately the previous research on the burial ground that was done on behalf of high-speed rail and VDOT was largely inaccurate, and in my opinion should be discarded. That research misrepresented the burial ground, minimized it, and misplaced it on the present day map.

I hope you will allow us to review what you are going to post publicly before it is posted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Lenora

Inline image

On Tue, Jan 11, 2022, 8:22 PM LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net> wrote:

A Journey Through the RF&P Corridor

A Journey Through the RF&P Corridor

VPRA, DRPT, HDR, and Dovetail Cultural Resource Group
A map tour highlighting historic architectural resources and archaeological sites along the Richmond, Fredericks...

Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground

City of Richmond

In 1816, the existing burial ground for both free and enslaved African Americans in Richmond's Shockoe Bottom closed. A new cemetery was established on Shockoe Hill with separate sections for free Blacks and enslaved people. The cemetery was in use until the 1870s. Over time, the existence of this cemetery was forgotten and ignored. Improvements occurred across portions of the interment area including widening roadways and constructing new bridges. No above-ground evidence of the cemetery exists today. The importance of this burial ground, however, is immense and future studies may reveal intact burials from Richmond's most marginalized community members. To acknowledge this significance, this site is part of a newly established Shockoe Hill Burial Ground Historic District.

I ask that this entry be re-written as well. Thank you. Lenora

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Selleck, Randy <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>
To: Emily Stock <emily.stock@drpt.virginia.gov>

Thu, Jan 20, 2022 at 2:40 PM

Forwarding so you have Ms. McQueen's response Emily...

**Randy Selleck, AICP | Director of Rail Planning & Environmental
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation**

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From: **LENORA MCQUEEN** <lenora.m@prodigy.net>
Date: Thu, Jan 20, 2022 at 2:07 PM
Subject: Re: Correcting the narrative / story map
To: Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>

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[Quoted text hidden]

Thanks so much for your comment, we will your emails into consideration as we complete our work. We really appreciate your reply on both the resources and how the data was accessed. ~~We will absolutely look into it to assure that the misinformation is not disseminated.~~

Sincerely,

Kerri

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Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>

Fri, Jan 21, 2022 at 10:10 AM

To: LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net>

Cc: Ana Edwards <ourrosewood@gmail.com>, Dan Mouer <danmouer@fastmail.fm>, Ellen Chapman <ellen.chapman@gmail.com>, Ryan Smith <rksmith3@vcu.edu>, Steve Thompson <iamsmt60@gmail.com>, Katherine Youngbluth <kate.youngbluth@vpra.virginia.gov>, "Selleck, Randy (DRPT)" <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>, "Harrington, Karen" <karen.harrington@hdrinc.com>

Thanks so much for your comments. We will take your emails into consideration as we complete our work. We really appreciate your reply on both the resources and how the data was accessed.

Have a good weekend,

Kerri

[Quoted text hidden]

LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net>

Fri, Jan 21, 2022 at 10:45 AM

To: Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>

Cc: Ana Edwards <ourrosewood@gmail.com>, Dan Mouer <danmouer@fastmail.fm>, Ellen Chapman <ellen.chapman@gmail.com>, Ryan Smith <rksmith3@vcu.edu>, Steve Thompson <iamsmt60@gmail.com>, Katherine Youngbluth <kate.youngbluth@vpra.virginia.gov>, "Selleck, Randy (DRPT)" <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>, "Harrington, Karen" <karen.harrington@hdrinc.com>

Thank you.

Lenora

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