

Dear Neighbors,

The Historic Elizabeth Neighborhood Foundation (the HENF) Board would like to provide an update on our progress toward establishing a local Historic District (LHD) in Elizabeth.

In March 2023, the HENF submitted its formal application for portions of the Elizabeth Neighborhood to be rezoned as a Local Historic District. This administrative requirement must be completed prior to the HENF petitioning homeowners for their support for such a district. The portion of Elizabeth submitted for consideration roughly follows the area that is currently listed as a historic area in the National Register of Historic Places. As a reminder, a Local Historic District is a zoning overlay that enforces rules intended to preserve the character and scale of our homes and neighborhood; the current National Register of Historic Places listing does not offer protections.

In May, the Charlotte Historic District Commission (HDC) delayed an official vote on the application until its September 13th meeting to allow for community feedback. Thank you to all neighbors who submitted input for HDC consideration, both for and against.

During last week's 9/13 HDC meeting, the vote on the HENF's application was again delayed. For background, during the August HDC meeting, ECA Secretary Sarah Crowder suggested in a prepared statement that the HENF's application for LHD was incomplete because it did not include a letter of community support from an active neighborhood organization (the ECA). The need for such a letter of support would be triggered if 1) the HENF were deemed not to be an active community organization itself and 2) the boundary of the proposed district were deemed to include all of Elizabeth. Importantly, what constitutes an "active community organization" is not defined, and such a letter of support is not required if the proposed local historic district is only a subset of the larger neighborhood. For these reasons, the HENF does not believe Ms. Crowder's argument will prevail, though it has proven successful in delaying the HDC's decision on the application. Now, the city attorney's office is reviewing the matter.

Our goal is to let Elizabeth homeowners decide for themselves by bringing the historic district petition to affected residents for a vote.

What's next:

The HDC's next meeting is on October 11, 2023. At this meeting, community feedback will be reviewed and an opinion will be made on the validity of the HENF's application to establish a Local Historic District in Elizabeth. Assuming the application is approved, which we expect, the HENF will update the community, have another information meeting and proceed to circulate the required petition for residents' signature.

What can you do:

If you wish to make comments to the HDC regarding the HENF application, there are two ways to do so: 1) Email the HDC ([charlottehdc@charlottenc.gov](mailto:charlottehdc@charlottenc.gov)) by noon on October 9, 2023 or 2) attend the HDC meeting in person on October 11, 2023. Support us with a financial contribution [HERE](#), or consider placing a sign in your yard (contact us).

Here is the link to the YouTube video of the 8/9 HDC meeting: [watch](#). The Elizabeth portion begins at ~23 minutes.

Thank you for your continued interest in this important community initiative.

Best,

HENF Board-