

**Meeting Notes from McCoy Remembrance Planning**  
**January 18, 2024**  
**At the Lloyd House**  
**12-1 pm**

Present: Audrey Davis, Caroline Klam, Jeanene Harris, David Spinrad, Tiffany Pache

Virtual Participation: Lynn Reynolds, Sarah Wheelan, Amy Bertch, Darrilyn Franklin

1. Welcome and introductions by Audrey Davis.  
Meeting started at 12:05 p.m.
2. Concept for 2024 Remembrance
  - a. Rabbi Spinrad asked the group to consider what feelings we hoped to evoke at the event.
  - b. Each year we try to do something different and meaningful. The group agreed that the sadness and horror of it needs to be present.
  - c. There was a suggestion to try and tie in the National Memorial for Peace and Justice memorial which is very powerful and evocative.
  - d. There was discussion about the use of the signs at the Benjamin Thomas Remembrance Walk. The group decided to have signs located at various points of McCoy's life in Alexandria placed two weeks before April 23.
  - e. Potential program the Lee Center or wreath laying at Penny Hill.
  - f. Penny Hill ceremony could be a short Anniversary of Joseph McCoy's burial as done in the Jewish tradition with prayers from multiple faith leaders and the statement of Acknowledgement by the white people in attendance.
3. Yard Sign Content - include the web address and QR code to generate some buzz and interest in the story and the event
  - a. Joseph McCoy and his younger brother John lived here with their Grandma Cecelia.
  - b. Joseph McCoy was unlawfully arrested here while visiting his Aunt Rachel whose home was on this alley.
  - c. Joseph McCoy, 18, lynched in Alexandria 4-23-1897 McCoy worked for Richard Lacy at a small farm on this site.
  - d. Richard Lacy accused Joseph McCoy of assaulting his 8-year-old daughter after talking to Dr. O'Brien near this spot.
  - e. Police arrested, held, interviewed, and "" about confession from newspaper here in the police station house
  - f. First 150 white men, then 500 attacked this building. The second time, they pulled Joseph McCoy from his hiding place and brought him into the street.
  - g. A white mob dragged Joseph McCoy along this street, kicking and hitting him.
  - h. Alexandrians lynched Joseph McCoy, killing him in this place.  
Joseph McCoy, 18, lynched, April 23, 1897.
4. Action items for next meeting:
  - a. Look at costs and logistics associated with Lee Center and/or Penny Hill ceremony
  - b. Rabbi Spinrad to bring an English version of the burial ceremony to the next meeting

- c. Explore student participation at April 23 event, potentially reading from James Cameron's account of his attempted lynching from his book: A Time of Terror.
  - d. Sign text drafts
5. Next meeting: Thursday, February 15, 12 to 1 p.m. at the Lloyd House