

NORTH LITTLE ROCK HISTORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

September 8, 2015
6:00 P.M.
506 Main Street
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Commission Members Present:

Suzanne Jackson, Chairman
Kristal Clark
Eartha Dobbins
Belinda Burney
Jon Beavers

Others Present:

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director
Cary Bradburn, Historian

Commission Members Absent:

Connie Woodard
Herman Shirley

Commission Chairman Suzanne Jackson called the September 8, 2015 meeting of the North Little Rock History Commission meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and quorum was established. It was reported that Herman Shirley had an excused absence.

Ms. Jackson asked Commissioners to read the minutes of the August 11, 2015 History Commission meeting. Ann Clements moved to approve the minutes as written. Belinda Burney seconded the motion and it was approved by all in voice vote.

Staff Report

Sandra Smith reported the following donations received since the August 2015 meeting:

1. Collection of Arkansas Post Cards and Assorted Photographs- donated by Gwynn C. Prideaux
2. Campaign grilling aprons- donated by Murry Witcher
3. Richard DeSpain limited edition prints- donated by Betty Harp
4. Pike View Elementary School scrapbooks, photographs- donated by Linda S. Bennett, Pike View
5. North Little Rock Fireman's badge and button- donated by William Gray

Ms. Smith told Commissioners about a proposal for a North Little Rock book by HPN Books. The sample books have a brief history of a city and a large section about different businesses in the city. The book company makes their money through the local businesses sponsoring sections on their history. Ms. Smith said the publisher will be sending another version of a book where the history section basically starts after WWII and brings the city's history to current times in addition to the businesses sections. It was decided that the book project will be discussed at a future meeting after more information is obtained.

Ms. Smith reported that a gentleman who has done some film documentaries has approached the Commission wanting to do something on North Little Rock history. There is no budget for this project and Smith said she felt like any videos could be done by Jim Billings on the mayor's staff.

Chairman Report

Ms. Jackson talked about potential exhibits for 2015. The Champion Tree exhibit would cost around \$1,500, but was shown at the Thea Foundation in 2012. Discussion followed about the length of exhibits and it was determined that three months is a good term.

An exhibit on African-American history will be installed in February 2016. Belinda Burney suggested doing an exhibit on North Little Rock schools in 2016. Suzanne Jackson said she is talking to V.L. Cox about using her exhibit of equal opportunity doors in January. It is also hoped that former City Engineer Mike Smith will display some of his doorknobs in the building in January. Other exhibit suggestions included Women's History, focusing on North Little Rock people.

Jon Beavers asked if there was going to be a fundraising event in November. Ms. Jackson said that it will likely be in the spring as getting items donated for the event will be crucial.

Discussion about the rental agreement for 506 Main Street followed. Hourly rates and deposits were discussed. Potentially \$50 an hour during work hours and \$75 an hour after 5pm during the week and for weekends was determined to be a fair charge. Ann Clements said that there should be a pre-approved list of caterers. Serving alcoholic beverages was discussed and it was decided wine and beer would be acceptable, but no hard liquor. Commissioners asked that staff send some comparable rates from other facilities and then email a vote on the rate for 506 Main.

Comments/Discussion

Sandra Smith said there will be letters "North Little Rock Heritage Center" installed on the front of the building in the next few months. She also said the windows on the front are desperately in need of painting.

Belinda Burney said Dark Hollow Days will be on September 19 with a parade starting at 11am. All were invited all to attend. Kristal Clark brought some old Cotton Belt RR calendars and donated them to the Commission.

After determining there was no further business to conduct, Jon Beavers moved to adjourn. Belinda Burney seconded the motion and it was approved by all in voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director