

NORTH LITTLE ROCK HISTORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

April 14, 2015
6:00 P.M.
506 Main Street
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Commission Members Present:

Suzanne Jackson, Chairman
Herman Shirley
Kristal Clark
Connie Woodard
Ann Clements
Belinda Burney
Eartha Dobbins
Jon Beavers

Others Present:

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director
Cary Bradburn, Historian

Commission Members Absent:

none

Commission Chairman Suzanne Jackson called the April 15, 2015 meeting of the North Little Rock History Commission meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and quorum was established.

Ms. Jackson said the minutes of the February 2015 meeting were not approved in March due to a lack of quorum. Commissioners were provided a copy of the February minutes for review. Ann Clements made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Eartha Dobbins seconded the motion and it was approved by all in voice vote. Minutes of the March 10, 2015 meeting were distributed to those who did not have copies. Jon Beavers made a motion to approve the March minutes as written. Ann Clements seconded the motion and it was approved by all in voice vote.

Staff Report

Sandra Smith said work in progressing on putting together an exhibit for Park Hill Elementary School's April 11 school-wide reunion. North Little Rock High School East Lab is helping with printing posters with images of classes from each decade.

Donations received since March 2015:

- 1) WWII War Saving Bond Stamp Album- donated by Robert Spencer
- 2) 1924 photo of nine sets of twins at Clendenin Elementary School- donated by David Doss of Allen Park, MI.

Soiree Magazine is publishing a guide to downtown Little Rock and North Little Rock in the summer of 2015. Ms. Smith told Commissioners they are proposing the History Commission place an ad in the publication. The cost for a 1/6 page ad would be \$440. Ann Clements made a motion that due to budget restraints, the Commission will not buy an ad. The motion was seconded by Herman Shirley and approved 8-0 in voice vote.

Ms. Smith updated Commissioners on the status of the HVAC system in the archives room. Four quotes have been received. All companies who looked at the system said the compressor is broken and cannot be repaired. The quotes range from \$6,000 to \$10,000 to install a new system. Additionally, a maintenance contract on the other two systems in the building needs to be established.

Copies of a 12 month report on History Commission activities were distributed to Commissioners. Suzanne Jackson and Sandra Smith met with Mayor Smith on March 31 and presented the report to him. At the meeting naming the facility at 506 Main Street "North Little Rock Heritage Center" was proposed and the mayor liked it and will sponsor a resolution in the upcoming weeks to be voted on by City Council. The mayor suggested that we pursue leasing the downstairs of the building for events.

Chairman Report

Suzanne Jackson said the History Commission has been open for 3rd Friday Argenta Art Walks. On April 17, Ann Clements will showcase her recycled jewelry designs. In May, Tim Jacobs will be here with his paintings and hands-on demonstration of his painting technique. In June, the Commission will host an exhibit entitled "Give My Regards to Broadway". This will be an exhibit about the Broadway Bridge with historic images and current photographs of the bridge by Greg Davis. The Thursday night before the Art Walk, the Commission will host a preview party which will be by invitation only. Ms. Jackson said research has been conducted on the Broadway Bridge with the AR Highway Department, the AR Democrat/Gazette, and the AR History Commission.

Commissioner Reports

Herman Shirley said that he still plans to conduct interviews with people who remember the impact the bombing of Pearl Harbor had on their life. Cary Bradburn will assist Mr. Shirley in setting up and conducting the interviews.

Ann Clements said AR Humanities Council grants are due on June 1. She urged the Commission to apply for funding to document North Little Rock's role in WWI as part of the partnership with the AR History Commission's WWI program planned for August 29 at the Hays Center.

Jon Beavers said he has sample leases and rough drafts of leases for 506 Main Street events. He said he would like the City Attorney to review after the Commission is satisfied with the lease. A draft of the lease agreement will be mailed to Commissioners for review.

Ann Clements asked if we will be allowing food and drinks in the building. Ms. Jackson said business meetings would be the preferred type of lease, but since the mayor is looking for income from leases, we will have to look at other events. Alcohol can be served in city-owned buildings, but not sold. Ms. Clements said she has concerns about damage that might occur to the building through leasing it for events. She said we need to take a long, hard look at the wording in the lease and decide which events would not be allowed here.

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After determining there was no further business to conduct, Ann Clements 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