



## Newsletter 2024 4Q

### **December Board/Membership Meeting and Election of Officers:**

The Board of Directors has scheduled a membership meeting for December 5, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the board room of NLR Tourism, 600 Main Street, Suite 100 (the History Commission, our normal meeting place, is under construction). The FOM Bylaws require that officers be elected in December of even-numbered years, so we will have officer elections. The current officers are:

Valerie Boyce, President  
Deeana Montgomery, Vice-President  
Janet Beck, Secretary  
Joe Detchemendy, Treasurer

Per the Bylaws, the Board has designated these four as the slate of candidates for reelection, but any member may make additional nominations. If you wish to nominate someone for office, please email Valerie (at [valerie.boyce61@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.boyce61@gmail.com)) no later than November 28, although we will also take nominations from the floor at the meeting. We will also discuss the spring 2024 restoration project, new OM merchandise from NLR Tourism, and possible activities for next year. Hope to see you there.

### **Spring 2024 Restoration Work:**

If you've been to the Old Mill this summer or fall, you might not notice the restoration work done this spring, but part of that is intentional – unless you were aware of the specific damage, the restoration work simply returned the grounds and structures as close as possible to their original state. However, the work was invaluable as it corrected several areas of damage so that the Old Mill will last through the decades.

As a bit of history behind the project: in January 2022, the Old Mill Master Gardeners, several of whom were also members of FOM, notified the City and its Parks and Recreation Department via memorandum that they had observed numerous areas of damage and degradation to the Old Mill

*faux bois* structures created by Dionicio Rodriguez, plus additional damage/degradation to the grounds and hardscape.

During 2023 and early 2024, Parks addressed much of the damage to the grounds and hardscape: (1) repaired and reinforced the ground/support under the bridge/walkway to mill; (2) relocated the mushroom sculpture to a permanent location; (3) replaced missing decorative toppers on the front gate; (4) replaced stacked stone edging at the top of beds on the west hillside with larger stones to keep gravel from washing into flower bed/down the hillside; (5) repaired the rock paths in front of mill which were missing rocks and creating a walking hazard; and (6) repaired the steps below the deck by replacing missing rocks.

In March 2023, NLR applied for and received a \$40,000 grant from Arkansas Historic Preservation to restore the historic *faux bois* structures. The grant required a fifty percent match in funds (\$20,000) from the City. After a September 2023 Request for Qualifications, NLR and Studio Cortés, LLC of San Antonio (Carlos Cortés is the grand-nephew of Rodriguez) entered into a contract for the restoration work in February 2024, which was performed on April 30-May 9, 2024.

Examples of repair work:

Part of ceiling before:



Part of ceiling after:



Grain hopper before (damaged and missing):



Grain hopper reconstructed:



More information and photographs are on the FOM website: <http://friendsoftheoldmill.org/>

### **Master Gardener Work on Waterfall Flower Beds:**

The MGs continue to add to the new flower beds by the restored waterfall, which have been designated as a Monarch Waystation. The beds focus on native and pollinator plants and strive to have something blooming all spring, summer, and fall. Here is a recent photo:



Hope to see you at the FOM meeting on December 5!