

NORTH LITTLE ROCK HISTORY COMMISSION
506 Main Street
North Little Rock, AR 72114
(501)371-0755
MINUTES

North Little Rock History Commission meeting February 11, 2025

Commission Members Present:

Suzanne Jackson, Chairman
Belinda Burney
Kristal Clark
Robert Coates
Deeana Montgomery
Sonny Rhodes

Others Present:

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director
Cary Bradburn, Historian

CORRECTED MINUTES

Commission Members Absent:

Ann Clements

Commission Chairman Suzanne Jackson called the February 11, 2025 meeting of the North Little Rock History Commission meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. and quorum was established.

Ms. Jackson asked Commissioners if they had read the minutes of the January 14, 2025 History Commission meeting. Sonny Rhodes moved to approve the January 14, 2025 minutes as written and the motion was seconded by Deeana Montgomery and approved by all in voice vote.

Staff Report

New Donations received since February, 2025:

1. Two pages out of the May 1942 edition of *Architectural Record* magazine featuring the Park Theater (bought on eBay). Donated by Suzanne Jackson
2. Vintage steel typesetting box with letters which belonged to Jane Ploszay's mother. Donated by Jane Ploszay
3. Aluminum railroad lantern, Amtrak trainman's hat, square MoPac pin (30 years of service), round Amtrak pin, "Operation Lifesaver" RR Crossing pin, and drawing of Clendenin School by Juanita L. Curtis Waldrop (1976). Donated by C. A. (Carol Ann) Aclin
4. 17 pages of photos & other memorabilia from Betty Mason's days as a cheerleader at Jefferson Davis Jr. High and North Little Rock High School – all are photocopies from her scrapbook. Donated by Betty Mason Martin

Chairman's Report

Chairman Suzanne Jackson reported that she and Sandra Smith attended a meeting with Taggart Architects regarding the renovation of the high school building. They toured the first floor of the building, including the auditorium, discussing the possible alteration of the auditorium floor's height. The School District plans to use the historic high school building as their Center of Excellence. There will be a millage vote in May. If passed, the School District plans to demolish the current middle school (the former Northeast High School and Lakewood Jr. High School), renovate the 1929 high school building, and demolish the old Poplar Street Jr. High School building and the old First United Methodist Church building (both on Poplar St.), and construct a new sports complex.

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Chairman Jackson then gave an update on the exhibit construction progress. She reported that we are working on getting the alarm system back up and running and that we hope to open the exhibit late this summer.

Deeana Montgomery gave a report on the Volunteers & Education Program Committee. She has visited the Clinton Center with staff member Ann Kamps. She advised us to decide the job duties for the volunteers, and that we need to know who they are, and how many volunteers we need. The volunteers will likely be comprised of students, faculty, and retirees.

Chairman Jackson asked Robert Coates and Belinda Burney to research Pulaski Tech and Shorter College to see if volunteers from those schools could earn credit hours. Mr. Coates said that course credits would provide incentives for younger folks to volunteer such as transportation, gift cards, and parking.

The group discussed that other sources of volunteers would be the Hays Senior Center and local churches. Chairman Jackson asked how to work with education, and suggested the Mayor's Youth Council. We could invite Jan Scholl & Jill Mills.

Kristal Clark added that businesses could sponsor volunteers with gift cards as an incentive.

Chairman Jackson suggested that we contact Facebook administrators and bring them in to help us advertise for volunteers.

After determining there was no further business or discussion, Belinda Burney made a motion to adjourn. Deeana Montgomery seconded the motion and it was approved by all in voice vote. Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director