

NORTH LITTLE ROCK HISTORY COMMISSION

506 Main Street
North Little Rock, AR 72114
(501) 371-0755

MINUTES

North Little Rock History Commission
April 8, 2025

Commission Members Present:

Suzanne Jackson, Chairman
Belinda Burney
Kristal Clark
Ann Clements
Deeana Montgomery
Sonny Rhodes

Others Present:

Kelli Peters, Staff
Cary Bradburn, Historian

Commission Members Absent:

Robert Coates

History Commission Chairman Suzanne Jackson called the April 8, 2025 meeting of the North Little Rock History Commission to order at 5:30 P.M. and quorum was established.

Chairman Jackson asked Commissioners if they had read the minutes of the February 11, 2025 meeting. Ann Clements stated that she was not present at the February 11, 2025 meeting and moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Deeana Montgomery seconded the motion and it was approved by all in a voice vote.

Staff Report

Kelli Peters read a list of the donations received since the February 11, 2025 meeting:

1. A playbill for "*You Can't Take It With You!*" for the Harold Murchison collection. Donated by Shara Hutchcraft.
2. Arkansas Sesquicentennial calendar (1986) issued by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Donated by Lealon Worrell.
3. U. S. Navy pamphlet on proper care/use of the U. S. flag (1937). Donated by Lealon Worrell.
4. Executives of the United States pamphlet on U. S. presidents & vice presidents (c. 1929). Donated by Lealon Worrell.
5. Several newspapers (most entirely intact) covering political events, 9/11, & other events (1991, 2008). Donated by Lealon Worrell.
6. "*I Wish I Was in Dixie*" sheet music from Audrey Reeves' musical collection (1902). Donated by Kelli Peters.
7. Pamphlet from NLR Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, 3001 JFK Blvd. from the Byron &

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Audrey Reeves estate. Donated by Kelli Peters.

8. Bank of the Ozarks notepad from the Byron Reeves estate. Donated by Kelli Peters.
9. Large ironing board label from Montgomery Ward (c. 1950s). Donated by Kelli Peters.
10. Original abstract for 411 W. 5th St. (1916). Found in the office.
11. Small milk bottle from Sunnymede Farm with the MoPac logo on it. Donated by Barbara & Tim Young.
12. MoPac souvenir plate. Donated by Barbara & Tim Young.
13. Pocket watch inside a glass display dome. Donated by Barbara & Tim Young.
14. Fraternal Order of Police plaque given to Carl Amos for his service in the NLRPD from 1946-1966. Donated by Barbara & Tim Young.
15. Membership card for David S. Young in the International Brotherhood of Boiler Markers. Donated by Barbara & Tim Young.
16. Various photographs (originals). Donated by Barbara & Tim Young.
17. Various newspaper articles (photocopies). Donated by Barbara & Tim Young.
18. 6 inch plastic ruler from one of Reed Thompson's mayoral campaigns. Donated by Debra Wood.

Cary Bradburn reported that we are still working on the exhibit. He and Sonny Rhodes are still writing & editing text for the exhibit panels.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Jackson told Commissioners that the train to be used in the permanent exhibit is now finished, and has been delivered. She showed photos of it to the mayor and he was very pleased. Kristal Clark asked if the exhibit and train would have sound effects. Chairman Jackson told her that instead of sound effects, there would be a bell mounted on the *Madame Queen* (locomotive), with a stick to ring the bell. We thought that too much noise in the exhibit would be distracting and annoying to staff, visitors, and volunteers.

Chairman Jackson reported that the video made by Nathan Lynch, and produced by his father, Jim Lynch, is out but not quite finished. They need to find \$3500 in funding for the video. She suggested that we apply for a grant through the Arkansas State Archives. She then showed part of the video to the commissioners on her laptop.

Belinda Burney suggested that we send an official letter from the History Commission to request funding. She said that the letter needs to go to Mike Gilliam, the president of the Scipio A. Jones National Alumni Association.

Chairman Jackson then gave an update on the permanent exhibit construction. She said the train is finished, and that we will do a walk-through with the exhibit committee and contractors tomorrow. We think we have the HVAC issue resolved. Kelli Peters added that the painting is all done. Chairman Jackson told the commissioners that the panels are the result of cooperation between

multiple people. She added that we hope to open the exhibit by early September, and that the mayor is up-to-date on the progress.

Volunteers –

Deeana Montgomery gave a report on the search for volunteers to help after the exhibit opens. The City of Little Rock's Mayor Volunteer Council's application is two (2) pages long. We can tweak it for our use but Little Rock wants to see the final draft so that they can approve it. There is a Code of Ethics form for potential volunteers to sign. Once accepted, volunteers log their hours.

Ms. Montgomery reported that she had also looked at a hospital volunteer application which included the volunteer requirements. She suggested that we ask potential volunteers to list five (5) things they would be interested in doing. Providing references would also be a good idea. We could use the City of North Little Rock's form as an example.

Chairman Jackson suggested that Charlotte Thomas would be an ideal candidate for a volunteer. The commissioners all agreed that we should only accept volunteers who are 18 years of age or older. Ms. Montgomery told the commissioners that North Little Rock's volunteer enrollment form is on the city's website.

Ann Clements mentioned that we should include a job description for each task. Ms. Montgomery pointed out that somebody needs to be in charge of scheduling the volunteers – that could be someone on staff or someone from the committee. The commissioners agreed that we should limit the volunteers' schedules to a maximum of 4 hours per shift and 3 days per week. We should also add a disclaimer allowing for termination at any time, both for us and for the volunteers, should the pairing of the volunteer with the position not work out.

Chairman Jackson assigned Kelli Peters, Cary Bradburn, Sonny Rhodes, and Deeana Montgomery the job of coming up with a list of tasks for volunteers to do. It was also mentioned that we need a buzzer at the front desk so that the person at the front desk can immediately summon help from staff on the second floor, should they need it.

We also need to contact Shay Cobb, the liaison for the unsheltered persons in our community, to get a list of services that we can refer to any problem visitors.

We also need to hold training sessions for volunteers – initially as a group, then individually. We need to ask them to list their volunteer and work experience on the application.

Street Name Change –

Chairman Jackson handed the floor over to Cary Bradburn regarding a name change for a section of N. Locust Street proposed by Norman Clifton, of First Pentecostal Church. (The church plans to build on the swampland north of the Dark Hollow neighborhood. They would like to rename a section of N. Locust Street for Bishop J. M. Holmes.) Mr. Bradburn stated that the History Commission's only involvement is whether or not it impacts a historic street name or any current

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street addresses. Belinda Burney pointed out that N. Locust Street is the access road that runs along Interstates 30 & 40, and belongs to the Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department (AHTD).

Ann Clements added that she objects to the renaming of streets for living people. Chairman Jackson said that if it's owned by the State (AHTD), then the History Commission has no say in the matter. She then moved to ask Shawn Spencer, of the North Little Rock Community Planning Department, who actually owns the street, before we make a decision on any name change. Ann Clements seconded the motion.

Ms. Burney added that the State doesn't consult the City on matters involving the interstate system, and gave the elimination of the Curtis Sykes Drive on-ramp as an example.

Kristal Clark was put in charge of creating a list of Facebook followers (as potential volunteers).

After determining there was no further business or discussion, Chairman Suzanne Jackson moved to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Ann Clements and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sandra Taylor Smith".

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director