



MINUTES

North Little Rock History Commission May 9, 2023

Commission Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director
Cary Bradburn, Historian

Commission Members Absent:

none

Commission Chairman Suzanne Jackson called the May 9, 2023 meeting of the North Little Rock History Commission meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. and quorum was established. Commissioners introduced themselves to new Commissioners Robert Coates and Sonny Rhodes.

Ms. Jackson asked Commissioners if they had read the minutes of the last History Commission meeting. Ann Clements moved to approve the March 2023 minutes as written and the motion was seconded by Deeana Montgomery. The motion was approved by all in voice vote.

Staff Report

New Donations received since March 2023:

1. Postcard mailed in April 1909 from Canon City, CO to Miss Clara Culver in Argenta, AR- donated by Ron Taylor, Canon City, CO
2. "The Negro Motorist Green Book" by Victor H. Green (new hardback copy) (2015)- donated by Ann Pryor Clements
3. Little Owl Double Keychain (Promotional Item_ from Owens Funeral Home, c. 1960s- Donated by Jim Henry
4. Two posters of Million Dollar Club (Real Estate, c.1979, c. 1980); framed collage of 5 Richard DeSpain drawings of Northeast High School (1980); 12 plaques issued to David Wood during his real estate career (1968-1998); 2 framed course completion certificates for Real Estate courses taken by David Wood (1974)- Donated by Debra Wood
5. Large architect's rendering of First American National Bank Building (later used as City Services Building); 2 large b/w aerial photos of Memorial Hospital (construction almost completed; Blueprints of Memorial Hospital- Donated by Bill Bush, City NLR

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Ms. Smith reported that there is a plan by former fireman, Bob Franklin, to open a state-wide fire museum in the building where the Central Fire Station is now located at 8th and Maple Streets. The building will not be available until construction of the new Central Fire Station has been completed, in approximately two years.

Smith also reported on her presentations to the Master Gardeners at the Old Mill, First Methodist Church group, and Lion's Club.

She said the exhibit design is progressing. Front windows will be replaced due to failing seals on the existing windows. A brochure on Main Street buildings has been prepared and Ms. Smith is looking at printing it. Commissioners advised that North Little Rock Tourism may have the budget to do that. There was discussion about QR codes. Mr. Coates said he will look into which phones have apps.

It was reported that audio/video interviews of North Little Rock citizens is ongoing.

After determining there was no further business or discussion, Ann Clements moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Belinda Burney and approved by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director