



MINUTES

North Little Rock History Commission
August 8, 2023

Commission Members Present:

Ann Clements
Sonny Rhodes
Deeana Montgomery
Kristal Clark
Robert Coates

Others Present:

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director
Cary Bradburn, Historian

Commission Members Absent:

Suzanne Jackson
Belinda Burney

Commission Vice-Chairman Ann Clements called the August 8, 2023 meeting of the North Little Rock History Commission meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. and quorum was established. It was reported that Suzanne Jackson and Belinda Burney had excused absences due to illness.

Ms. Clements asked Commissioners if they had read the minutes of the June 13, 2023 History Commission meeting. Corrections to be made were noted. Sonny Rhodes moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Deeana Montgomery seconded the motion and it was approved by all in voice vote.

Staff Report

New Donations received since June 2023:

1. Framed watercolor painting of covered Bridge at Burns Park- donated by Lawanda Simmons
2. Various plaques, newspaper ads/articles and Twin City Bank materials related to David P. Wood Jr.- Donated by Debra Wood
3. Photo of NLR Electric Dept. Workers (c. 1982) – Donated by Dennis Harrington
4. Shoestring hook from Totty's Shoe Store, 214 Main Street, Argenta- Donated by Ernest L. McKinley
5. Betty Jo Morris Collection- including diploma (May 1943) from NLR High School; Morris' education experience summary, 1943; graduation invitation 1943- Donated by Rebecca Lemley McGraw
6. Various articles from NLR Times, Northeast Star, AR Democrat, AR Gazette articles; Pamphlets on tourism in AR; maps Little Rock/North Little Rock; Ridgeroad Jr. High School ban sweat of Park Hill and Overbrook (1992) 1969 City Directory; Ridgeroad Jr. High School band sweater patch; Park Hill PTA cookbook; play programs; restaurant memorabilia and promotional items; plat map of lots for sale in Park Hill and Overbrook

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7. (1992); various NLR restaurant menus- Donated by Linda Wamsley
8. Newspaper articles about 1954 flood on Pike Avenue; Vesper & Commencement Programs NLRHS, 1960s, 1963, 1964, 1965; piano recital program Mrs. Ruth Jansen, Instructor (1964); Program for Gardner Methodist's Church "Laying of the Cornerstone" ceremony (1955)- all part of the Betty Jo Morris Collection- Donated by Rebecca Lemley-McGraw
9. Plastic 7" ruler from Bancorp South Bank; golf tee with Union Pacific RR logo; from the estate of Byron and Audrey Reeves- Donated by Kelli Peters.
10. Nov. 1945 NLRHS Wildcats vs. Little Rock Central High Tigers football program; 1946 NLRHS vs. LR Central football program; 1974 NE High School Commencement Program; 1973 NLRHS banquet speech- Donated by Stanaslais Whittlesey

Sandra Smith showed Commissioners a rough planning draft by the brochure maker in Oklahoma for the Argenta Main Street walking tour. Ms. Smith said she will be showing this to NLR Tourism to see if they can help fund it.

Ms. Smith told Commissioners that Bob Franklin would like to get a letter of support for his proposed statewide fire museum that he hopes to locate in the Central Fire Station at 8th and Maple once the new fire station is built. Sonny Rhodes moved to prepare a letter of support and send to Mr. Franklin. Robert Coates seconded the motion and it was approved by all in voice vote.

Comments/Discussion

Deena Montgomery said the non-profit "Friends of the Old Mill" is re-organizing and planning an open house at the Old Mill on September 21 from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M. The FOM helped raise money to build the permanent concession and restrooms building and amphitheater and has been involved in conducting tours when requested. The city has received a grant from the AR Historic Preservation Program to begin repairs of the sculptures by Dionicio Rodriguez. Mr. Carlos Cortez, a great-nephew of Rodriguez, will be coming to North Little Rock to do repairs. The Friends group will likely volunteer to be of any assistance to him, as will the Master Gardeners of Pulaski County. It was suggested that the organization contact the Mayor's Youth Council to see if they can be of any assistance.

Ann Clements reported that the exhibit design process is ongoing

After determining there was no further business or discussion, Deena Montgomery moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Sonny Rhodes and approved by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director