

NORTH LITTLE ROCK HISTORY COMMISSION
506 Main Street
North Little Rock, AR 72114

April 12, 2022

Commission Members Present:

Suzanne Jackson, Chairman
Ann Clements
Belinda Burney
Deeana Montgomery
Kristal Clark
Debra Wood

Others Present:

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director
Cary Bradburn, Historian

Commission Members Absent:

none

Commission Chairman Suzanne Jackson called the April 12, 2022 meeting of the North Little Rock History Commission meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. and quorum was established. Commissioners and staff were present at 506 Main Street. Commissioner Debra Wood participated in the meeting electronically.

Ms. Jackson asked Commissioners if they had read the minutes of the March 8, 2022 History Commission meeting. Deeana Montgomery said she would like the minutes to be clarified and state that she does think there is a need for a professional design firm. Suzanne Jackson asked that a spelling correction be made to Flint Hills and that she did not remember saying the History Commission needed a credit card reader.

Deeana Montgomery moved to approve the minutes with noted changes and Belinda Burney seconded the motion. All approved in voice vote.

Staff Report

Sandra Smith told Commissioners that Linda Montgomery has offered the History Commission a table which was used as a desk by former City Clerk Percy Machin. Discussion was held about where in the building it could be placed and how used. Debra Wood suggested- it might be something that would be appropriate for City Hall. Ann Clements asked Ms. Smith oom.

Debra Wood said she is 200 to 300% against not using a professional design team. Suzanne Jackson said Mayor Hartwick wants to use local talents. Debra Wood said amateur videos and piece-mealing the exhibit construction will make it look like garbage and will drag out forever and look like a big mess.

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Deeana Montgomery said there is some merit in Debra Wood's comments in that an overall plan is needed, but does think a professional design team is needed.

Debra Wood said the Mid America Museum uses a company called Flint Hills and she thinks it would be worth talking to them. Sandra Smith said Flint Hills did not respond when a RFP was sent out to design firms in early 2021. She said that we have a graphic artist who is very capable and we already have a design. Ms. Wood asked if it would be possible to have a conversation with Flint Hills to give recommendations for design and fabrication.

Deeana Montgomery said it might be good to explore Flint Hills as see what happens and to also contact some of the other firms that responded to the RFP.

In other business, it was discussed that third Friday artwalk in Argenta will resume in March. Suzanne Jackson asked who would be willing to staff the April 15 artwalk. Debra Wood said she still has a list of artists previously booked before Covid 19 caused the walks to be cancelled. Suzanne Jackson said there should be a credit card reader. Debra Wood said it is a Square reader and sticks into a phone and runs charges.

Ms. Jackson asked if we would have enough staff and Commissioners to have each of us host an artwalk. Ms. Jackson also suggested having a reception for the administrators of North Little Rock-related facebook pages to encourage them to ask for historic images and films. Kristal Clark was asked to come up with a list of administrators for the pages. Sandra Smith said the Dept. of Neighborhood Services will have a list of neighborhood group facebook pages.

Suzanne Jackson reported that one of the honor society members at North Little Rock High School put together a clean-up day in February to work on the historic NLRHS building. Ms. Jackson attended the event and she said they worked about 2 ½ hours and gathered massive amounts of trash and garbage on the first floor with the exception of the auditorium. A “History Hero” certificate was presented to Makenzie Dellinger for organizing the event.

After determining there was no further business or discussion, Belinda Burney made a motion to adjourn. Kristal Clark seconded the motion and it was approved by all in voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director