



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

MINUTES

North Little Rock History Commission meeting October 12, 2021

Commission Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director
Cary Bradburn, Historian

Commission Members Absent:

Debra Wood

Commission Chairman Suzanne Jackson called the October 12, 2021 meeting of the North Little Rock History Commission meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. and quorum was established. Commissioner Debra Wood had an excused absence. The meeting was held at 506 Main Street in Commission offices.

Ms. Jackson asked Commissioners if they had read the minutes of the last History Commission meeting, held on July 13, 2021. Ann Clements moved to approve the July 2021 minutes as written and the motion was seconded by Belinda Burney. The motion was approved by all in voice vote.

Staff Report

Donations since the July 2021 meeting:

1. 1965-66 Crestwood Elementary School Handbook; 1987 Levy Church of Christ Directory; Levy Church of Christ 3-ring notebook, undated- Donated by Laura Frost
2. Large framed photograph of Mayor Joe A. Smith and City Council previously hung in the Council Chambers- Donated by the City of North Little Rock
3. License Plate "North Little Rock Industrial City of Arkansas" expiration June 30. 1949- Donated by Susan Markman
4. Sculpted wall hanging of North Little Rock High School, Legacy Collection by Lunda Williams of Beebe, AR- Donated by Debra Wood
5. NLRHS Hi Comet newspaper December, 1932 November 1933, Jan. 1933, December 1933, April 1934; "A Night in Dixieland" Scorecard October, 1934; NLRHS scorecard Sept. 28, 1934, Oct. 5, 1934, October 26, 1934; Baccalaureate, January 1932, Production "Little Annie" program 1933- Donated by Kim Montgomery
6. Senior Edition NLRHS "Hi Comet", Jan. 17, 1936; Program "Laying of Cornerstone" of New High School Building, May 17, 1929- Donated by Stan Whittlesey

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7. 1944 and 1945 NLRHS Wildcat Annuals; 6th grade McRae Elementary School framed photo with all students identified; History of McRae Elementary School by Pat Smith Davis; letter from Mayor of Uiwang, South Korea to NLR Mayor Joe Smith, April 10, 2019- Donated by Joe A. Smith
8. Original color postcard “Argenta Colored School, Argenta, AR”- purchased on ebay- Donated by Suzanne C. Jackson

Chairman’s Report

Chairman Suzanne Jackson reported North Little Rock retired teachers will be meeting at the Heritage Center in November to begin identifying photographs in the NLR School District collection.

Ms. Jackson said Jim Lynch has not scheduled any interviews of the first black students to attend NLRHS due to Covid.

The permanent exhibit project is in negotiations with Taylor Studios on schematic designs.

Sandra Smith reported upcoming holiday events:

November 9, 2021 6:00 P.M. Mayor’s Christmas Tree Lighting Argenta Plaza

November 20- 3pm to 8:30 P.M. “Northern Lights” Argenta Plaza

December 5, 2021 Christmas Parade

Commissioners discussed participation in the events. The History Commission meeting will be at 5:30 November 9, then we will adjourn to go to the Christmas Tree lighting at 6:00 P.M.

Possible plans for the “Northern Lights” event was discussed. It was expressed that any activities in association with the event should be outdoors. A possible selfie photo station could be set up in the front of the building, brochures and information on Friends of North Little Rock History be available, possible give away items.

For the December 5 Christmas Parade when the History Commission typically has an open house prior to the parade, it was discussed cancelling the tree decorating contest this year, but having outdoor selfie photo opportunity and possibly a table in front of the building.

In other discussion, Belinda Burney announced that Harding University will be honoring Curtis H. Sykes as one of the first two black graduates at a ceremony on October 23.

After determining there was no further business or discussion, Ann Clements made a motion to adjourn. Deeana Montgomery seconded the motion and it was approved by all in voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director