



MINUTES

North Little Rock History Commission meeting April 13, 2021

Commission Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director
Cary Bradburn, Historian

Commission Members Absent:

Commission Chairman Suzanne Jackson called the April 13, 2021 meeting of the North Little Rock History Commission meeting to order at 5:34 P.M. and quorum was established. Commissioner Kristal Clark had an excused absence. (Note: All Commission members and staff participated in the meeting electronically)

Ms. Jackson asked Commissioners if they had read the minutes of the last History Commission meeting, held on February 9, 2021. Deeana Montgomery moved to approve the February 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 February 2021 meeting:

1. Documents and scrapbooks related to the Beacon of Peace and Hope Monument and Memorial Garden; Information on WAND (Women's Actions for New Directions") organization; information on historic murals on the floodwall during repainting in 2011- Donated by Caroline Stevenson
2. 7 limited edition prints of the Old Mill by Richard DeSpain- Donated by the Quapaw Quarter Association
3. Shakey's Pizza Parlor menu; 8 merchant discount coupons from Shakey's; 4X6" color photo of the south end of the Broadway Bridge, c. 2000- Donated by Dwayne Stokes and Angelia Crosley.
4. Miscellaneous newspaper articles concerning Baring Cross, Woodrow Wilson, obituary of John Bell Duckworth; miscellaneous programs for events- Donated by Rebecca McGraw
5. Park Hill Garden Club scrapbooks and minutes of meetings- to be scanned- Donated by the Park Hill Garden Club

North Little Rock History Commission Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2021

Page 2

Sandra Smith reported that Chapman Heating and Air conducted their air-conditioning check and findings include that the heat pump in the archives room (new system purchased in 2017) has a freon leak the compressor on the air-conditioning unit upstairs is bad. Chapman recommends replacing the entire unit in the upstairs. Their estimate is \$12,000. The freon leak in the archives unit can be repaired and freon added at an estimated cost of around \$900. Ms. Smith said she is going to contact another HVAC company for quotes before any work is started.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Suzanne Jackson reported Deeana Montgomery has been placing school district photographs in binders so retired teachers and other will be able to help identify them.

Ms. Jackson reported that Jim Lynch has been in touch with the North Little Rock School District registrar concerning obtaining names of the first black students enrolled in North Little Rock High School. He is sending letters on North Little Rock History Commission letterhead to people he has identified through his research and wants to post on facebook pages searching for identification of other students. He will be posting on the S. A. Jones Alumni facebook page as well as neighborhood association pages.

Suzanne Jackson said that three design/exhibit firms were interviewed via Zoom, Taylor Studios, Gecko and Exhibit Concepts. She said the committee (comprised of Sandra Smith, Suzanne Jackson, Ann Clements, Mary Beth Bowman, Jay Miller and Dennis Oxley) voted to hire Taylor Studios. Taylor Studios had the most relatable experience to what the NLR Heritage Center proposes to do in a permanent exhibit. Ms. Jackson said the City Attorney's office will be negotiating the contract with Taylor Studios. She asked for a vote to approve hiring Taylor Studios. Ann Clements moved to approve entering into a contract with Taylor Studios for design and fabrication of the permanent exhibit. Deeana Montgomery seconded the motion and it was approved by all in voice vote.

Ms. Jackson reported that fundraising is ongoing and largely being done through direct mail.

After determining there was no further business or discussion, Ann Clements made a motion to adjourn. Belinda Burney seconded the motion and it was approved by all in voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director