



MINUTES

North Little Rock History Commission meeting September 8, 2020

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
Robert Birch, NLR Economic Dev.
& Zoom Host
Diane Whitbey, City Clerk

Commission Members Absent:

none

Commission Chairman Suzanne Jackson called the September 8, 2020 meeting of the North Little Rock History Commission meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. and quorum was established. (Note: All Commission members, guests, and staff participated in the meeting electronically)

City Clerk Diane Whitbey administered the Oath of Office for reappointment of all Commissioners.

Ms. Jackson asked Commissioners if they had read the minutes of the last History Commission meeting, held on August 11, 2020. Deeana Montgomery moved to approve the August 2020 minutes as written and the motion was seconded by Ann Clements. The motion was approved by all in voice vote.

Staff Report

Donations since the August 2020 meeting:

1. Wood family genealogical research 1700-1900s; child's map of the United States; NLR High School Class of 1938 50 year reunion photograph; David P. Wood Rotary Club membership button and Realtor Badge; Small wood stool with upholstered cushion top handcrafted by David P. Wood in school as a gift for his mother; Biographical/genealogical information on American patriot Patrick Henry 1736-1799- Donated by Debra Wood
2. Items belonging to the late David Perry Wood Jr.- school report cards 1952-1964; Certificates of merit 1957-1962; NLR High School graduation diploma and cap tassel- May 1964; Hendrix College Report Cards 1965-1968; Baptism Certificate and Membership Certificate First Methodist Church March 1956- Donated by Debra Wood
3. Photo of the AR Queen riverboat docked in North Little Rock in 2009; color photos of the USS Razorback submarine arriving in North Little Rock in 2004; photo of Dickey-Stephens Baseball Park entrance 2007; matted b/w photo of Pugh's Mill with water feature; 17X24" b/w photo of Pugh's Mill- Donated by Dwayne Stokes

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4. 1965 Catette uniform North Little Rock High School- Donated by Charlie and Becky Hight
5. Bicentennial Poster Freedom Train- Donated by Jeff Watson
6. Little Rock-North Little Rock Today magazine 1965- Donated by Deeana Montgomery
7. Keystone Moviegraph projector Model 154W c. 1925- Donated by Max L. Baker
8. Early b/w photo of the Old Mill- Donated by Stan Whittlesey
9. Photograph of Buel Ray Wortham, North Little Rock, accused of stealing a sculpture of a bear from his hotel room in Russia- Purchased on Ebay

Chairman's Report

Chairman Suzanne Jackson told Commissioners that Ann Clements has agreed to serve as Vice-Chairman of the History Commission. All approved in voice vote.

Ms. Jackson talked about the vast collection of unidentified photos of schools in North Little Rock given to the Commission by the School District. She said there are retired teachers who may be able to volunteer and help identify the photos and documents.

She reported that Jim Lynch, NLRHS graduate of 1964 had contacted her about doing oral interviews with the first black graduates of North Little Rock High School. He would be willing to track down the former students and interview them. Ann Clements moved to proceed with working with retired teachers on identification of school memorabilia and to approve Jim Lynch's plan for interviews of black graduates of NLRHS. Kristal Clark seconded the motion and all approved.

Chairman Jackson said she thinks it would be a good idea to ask for ephemera on the Commission's facebook page and to contact facebook pages of neighborhood organizations asking for donations of items.

Ms. Jackson said they have been meeting with individual aldermen to discuss the permanent exhibit. Ann Clements said she is preparing a Humanities Grant requesting \$14,000 to pay for printing and framing of photographs. Sandra Smith said there is a resolution on the City Council Agenda for the meeting on September 14 to amend the 2020 city budget to appropriate \$150,000 to the History Commission permanent exhibit and another \$150,000 to go into the 2021 budget.

Ms. Jackson said she has brochures and donation cards ready. Debra Wood suggested a Go Fund Me account. Ann Clements suggested doing that later in the fundraising process.

Sandra Smith reported she had heard back from John Gaudin and they will be setting up tents in the parking lot next to the branch library on Main Street for art walk.

After determining there was no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, _____
Sandra Taylor Smith, Director