MINUTES

North Little Rock History Commission meeting October 13, 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

Commission Members Absent:
none

Commission Chairman Suzanne Jackson called the October 13, 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 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 September 8, 2020. Deeana Montgomery moved to approve the October 2020 minutes as written and the motion was seconded by Ann Clements. The motion was approved by all in voice vote.

Staff Report- sent via email

Donations since the September 2020 meeting:

1. Book- Hallerloggy's Ride With Santa Claus by Bernie Babcock 1943; Booklet of original poems and stories by 7th grade English Class at Jefferson Davis Jr. High School, 1958- Donated by Virginia Raum
2. Large framed and matted map of Levy in 1917; early aerial photo of Levy; biographical sketches and photos of eight early Levy barbers, framed; Large b/w photo of USS Arkansas with all crew in 1945; miscellaneous photos of early Levy businesses- Donated by Tim Horton
3. Framed 18" X 24" portrait of President Ronald Regan with letter from Regan to Kindergarten class at Pikeview Elementary School in 1988; Airport event tickets and other items from President Regan's visit 1988 framed 18" X 14". Brian Danaher, kindergarten student at Pikeview Elementary, his sister, and mother (Nita Danaher) attended the historic airport rally on October 27, 1988 when President Reagan visited Little Rock- Donated by Nita Danaher

Chairman's Report

Chairman Suzanne Jackson said she would like to table the retired teachers report as there has been no action on the project.

Ms. Jackson reported that Jim Lynch has contacted her and would like to do interviews of the first six black graduates of North Little Rock High School (1967). Belinda Burney said her sister was one of the graduates and she would help in locating the others. Mr. Lynch ran across book entitled "Desegregation of the North Little Rock School District" and Suzanne Jackson has also ordered a copy.

It was reported that the permanent exhibit process is moving along. Because city funds are being used, the city bid process will have to be followed. Ms. Jackson said there is approximately $380,000 secured with another $14,000 grant pending.

A grant for printing the African American history coloring book was submitted to the Arkansas Archives on October 2. If received, funding would allow for approximately 1,000 coloring books to be printed.

Debra Wood asked about filling the vacancy on the Commission. Commissioners said they would like to wait until after the election and ask the new mayor if there were suggestions.

There will be no Christmas parade in downtown North Little Rock this year and there will not be an open house and neighborhood Christmas tree decorating contest.

After determining there was no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

An electronic vote was taken of all Commissioners on moving forward with hiring Jay Miller to prepare an RFQ for a design firm to oversee the proposed permanent exhibit. All Commissioners voted affirmatively.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director