



MINUTES

North Little Rock History Commission meeting November 12, 2019

Commission Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director
Cary Bradburn, Historian

Commission Members Absent:

Ann Clements

Commission Chairman Suzanne Jackson called the November 12, 2019 meeting of the North Little Rock History Commission meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. and quorum was established. Ann Clements had an excused absence.

Ms. Jackson asked Commissioners if they had read the minutes of the September 10, 2019 History Commission meeting. Deeana Montgomery moved to approve September 2019 minutes as written and it was seconded by Belinda Burney. The motion was approved by all in voice vote.

Chairman's Report

Suzanne Jackson told Commissioners the Argenta Plaza will open on November 30 with an event called "The Festival of Lights". She said the event will take place from 5pm until sometime after 9pm. Ms. Jackson asked Commissioners if they would like to be open that evening. She said Main Street will be closed from 4th Street to 7th Street and there will be vendors, food trucks, etc. Commissioners determined that the building should be open from 5pm to 7pm. Cary Bradburn will open the building and Deeana Montgomery and Suzanne Jackson will be there.

Commissioners were reminded of the Christmas Open House on December 1 from 1pm to 4pm. Belinda Burney will have crafts for children. There will also be cookies and candy canes.

Commissioners said they know of two neighborhoods planning on participating in the Christmas Tree decorating contest. It was suggested that a reminder be put out on neighborhood facebook pages.

Ms. Jackson said she and Ann Clements and Sandra Smith are meeting with Mayor Smith on November 18 to show him the permanent exhibit plans. She said the next temporary exhibit planned for 506 Main will be about the building as a fire station and city hall and feature election memorabilia.

Minutes of North Little Rock History Commission
Meeting of November 12, 2019
Page 2

It was announced that Belinda Burney and Sandra Taylor Smith have been appointed to a task force to save the historic North Little Rock High School building and find a use for it. The first meeting will be on Tuesday, November 19 and anyone is welcome to attend. There will be a tour of the building. Sandra Smith said that the Mayor and Department Heads will tour the building at another time. Commissioners discussed uses for the building such as housing North Little Rock School district administrative offices. A museum about the city's school history was also suggested. Sandra Smith said Gary Clements has offered to prepare a preservation plan at no cost to the district. Ms. Smith also said that Greg Davis has volunteered to document the building in taking photographs.

Belinda Burney said that East Lab students at North Little Rock High School are working on the African American coloring book. Sandra Smith said the Patrick H. Hays Senior Citizens Center is hosting a block history event in February and she would like the History Commission to participate.

After determining there was no further business or discussion, Deana Montgomery moved to adjourn. Belinda Burney seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director