



## North Little Rock History Commission meeting July 11, 2017

### Commission Members Present:

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

### Others Present:

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director  
Cary Bradburn, Historian

### Commission Members Absent:

Eartha Dobbins

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Commission Chairman Suzanne Jackson called the July 11, 2017 meeting of the North Little Rock History Commission meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and quorum was established.

Ms. Jackson asked Commissioners if they had read the minutes of the May 9, 2017 History Commission meeting (no meeting was held in June 2017). On a motion by Belinda Burney and second by Deeana Montgomery, the May 2017 minutes were approved as written by all in voice vote.

Debra Wood was introduced to the Commission. She will be appointed to the History Commission on July 24. All welcomed Debra.

### **Staff Report**

Sandra Smith concurred with the welcome to Debra Wood. Ms. Wood has an extensive background in art, exhibits and programing. Ms. Smith said she got to know Debra when she was working on an exhibit of historic downtown North Little Rock for the opening of the Wm. F. Laman Library branch in the Post Office building at 420 Main in 2014.

Ms. Smith said the air-conditioning condenser on the front of the first floor system has gone out. She said she has consulted several people concerning the best approach to repair the system and it has been recommended by all to replace the entire unit. The approximate cost for a new system would be approximately \$6,600. The new system would have a ten year warranty.

Items donated to the North Little Rock History Commission since the last meeting were reported:

1. Abstract of 215 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street- Donated by Diane Hudson
2. Girl Scout canteen and mess kit- Donated by Starlia Aubrey
3. List of registered voters in Argenta in 1909- Donated by John Wooten
4. Documents, Clippings, Photographs from the David Wood Collection- Donated by Debra Wood
5. Small Metal Horse and Wagon- Donated by Kelli Peters

6. Amethyst ring, necklace and bracelet from a former student- Donated by Mary Ruth Morgan
7. Two large c. 1920 framed photographs of Shriners Club members- Donated by Clark Morgan

Ms. Smith told the Commission that the document on Historically African American North Little Rock Neighborhoods, funded by a grant from the National Park Service has been completed. She also said that Cary Bradburn is writing a 750 word paper on the integration of the North Little Rock School District for the UALR digital archives.

### **Chairman Report**

Suzanne Jackson said consultant Jay Miller's invoice for his report and presentation to the North Little Rock History Commission in May will be paid by the non-profit "Friends of North Little Rock History". She said that through the Friends group, a mini-grant from the AR Humanities Council will be prepared and submitted. The mini-grant will pay for Jay Miller's continuation of an exhibit plan for 506 Main Street.

Kristal Clark moved to ask the Friends of North Little Rock History to go forward with preparation of a Humanities Grant. The motion was seconded by Belinda Burney and approved by all in voice vote.

Ms. Jackson asked Commissioners to think about ideas for new exhibits. She said the railroad exhibit and train tree will remain up until the end of December 2017. Then we would go forward with installing a new exhibit. She asked that Commissioners email ideas and suggestions to staff.

Sandra Smith said that the History Commission will be hosting a site for the Little Rock Consortium of Museums' event "Booseum" on October 26. Last year the History Commission partnered with the AR Inland Maritime Museum at their facility. This year AIMM will partner with the History Commission to host the event at 506 Main Street.

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After determining there was no further business or discussion, Belinda Burney made a motion to adjourn. Kristal Clark seconded the motion and it was approved by all in voice vote. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sandra Taylor Smith, Director