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## MINUTES

North Little Rock History Commission  
January 13, 2026

### Commission Members Present:

Suzanne Jackson, Chairman  
Ann Clements  
Robert Coates  
Deeana Montgomery  
Sonny Rhodes

### Others Present:

Kelli Peters, Director  
Cary Bradburn, Historian

### Commission Members Absent:

Belinda Sykes-Burney

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History Commission Chairman Suzanne Jackson called the January 13, 2026 meeting of the North Little Rock History Commission to order at 5:30 P.M. and quorum was established.

Chairman Jackson asked Commissioners if they had read the minutes of the December 9, 2025 meeting. Ann Clements moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Deeana Montgomery seconded the motion and it was approved by all in a voice vote.

### Staff Report

Kelli Peters read a list of the donations received since the December 9, 2025 meeting. All were artifacts from First Presbyterian Church donated by Rachel Patton:

1. *The Presbyterian Hymnal* with First Presbyterian Church embossed on front cover
2. The Prophecy of Daniel – small binder of original typed pages
3. Introduction to Job – small binder of original typed pages
4. First Presbyterian Church membership directory (2007)
5. First Presbyterian Church pictorial church directory (in binder) (2013) (2 copies)
6. First Presbyterian Church pictorial church directory (in binder) (2015)

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7. In file folder:
  - Handwritten biography of Otis Russell by unknown author
  - B/W photos of the evolution of the construction of the current sanctuary (photocopies)
  - Map (photocopy)
  - B/W photo of (presumed) elders of the church
8. Certificate issued to First Presbyterian Church from Fit2Live with copy of check to FPC from the City of North Little Rock for \$5,500.00 (laminated)
9. 10 x 12 framed B/W photo of original church building (photocopy)
10. 11 x 13 framed sepia tone photo of original building + first addition
11. 12 x 15 framed B/W photo of original church building (photocopy?)
12. Revised plan drawings of First Presbyterian Church's educational wing, designed by John Parks Almand (original blueprints) (11/16/1957)
13. Plan drawings of First Presbyterian Church's new sanctuary, designed by John Parks Almand (original) (03/29/1954)
14. Plan drawings of First Presbyterian Church's kitchen annex, designed by John Parks Almand (original) (09/20/1962)

### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Jackson reported to the others that Kristal Clark has resigned from the Commission, as she has moved to Conway, and is no longer eligible to serve. She told them that Ms. Peters has sent a letter with a certificate to Ms. Clark, thanking her for her many years of service to the North Little Rock History Commission.

She then gave an update on the progress we're making on the permanent exhibit.

Chairman Jackson told the commissioners that we need to start thinking of ways we can help out with various Black History Month events, pointing out that we have nothing in the budget for it, as the budget is very tight this year. She asked Robert Coates to get with Belinda Burney to see if there are ways we can help by volunteering with the events she's planning.

Deeana Montgomery reported that she has finished the application for potential volunteers but she needs to add the various job descriptions to it. In addition to staffing the front desk, we would like to find volunteers to work in the office, answer phones, help set up for meetings, and find those with IT knowledge. AARP pays volunteers who are age 55 & older. She also asked for ideas on ways to distribute the application. It was also suggested that we need to have a manual for volunteers. We would also like to offer incentives for volunteers, to encourage participation. Each volunteer should have a personal contact, or "go to" person on staff, so that they will feel supported.

We could get ideas from the following:

City of North Little Rock – Mayor's Volunteer Services – Angela Wirt  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock – Dr. Kristin Mann  
Pulaski Technical College – Dr. Richard Moss  
Laman Library – Jamie Middleton

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We need to provide an easy way for them to turn in applications, and we need to establish a deadline. We also need to create an online application, as that's probably going to be the way most will apply. We need to separate the Code of Ethics and time sheet sections.

Chairman Jackson then gave an update on the repairs that are needed in the building. We recently had Gary Clements, of Clements Architects, inspect the front window and the roof. According to Mr. Clements, the windows need to be replaced, due to water damage; the roof needs to be replaced, though it can be done in stages; and the exterior brick needs to be repointed. There are grants available for such repairs but we would encounter much competition for those funds. We plan to use the City's new grant writer. The Historic Preservation Restoration Grants (HPRG), available through the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, need to be submitted in the fall, and completed by spring.

Ann Clements suggested that we might apply for an Arkansas Natural & Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) grant to pay for the windows and tuckpointing.

Chairman Jackson said that we need to put the exhibit front & center on our website, to promote it. We need to state that the downstairs is temporarily closed in preparation of our new museum. She showed the group two examples of materials that we can pass out to people – one was a postcard with a QR code on it, the other was a mailer. She also suggested that we get some business cards with a QR code printed, that we can pass out to people.

Chairman Jackson said that she would like for us to think of ways we can honor Sandra Taylor Smith, the longtime director of the North Little Rock History Commission. She told them that Dan Scott, the director of Neighborhood Services had suggested: 1.) Name the history building after her; 2.) Name the museum exhibits after her; 3.) Rename 6th Street in Argenta after her; 4.) Have the Mayor do a proclamation declaring a day in her honor; 5.) Have Cary Bradburn interview her; 6.) Nominate her for inclusion in the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame; 7.) See if Preserve Arkansas will name an award for her. Kelli Peters said that the only three of those that Sandra would likely want would be to name the exhibit after her, have Mayor Hartwick issue a proclamation for her, or interview her. It was suggested that we name the exhibit "The Sandra Taylor Smith Gallery."

Sonny Rhodes told the other commissioners about an upcoming Trail of Tears conference in 2027. The title of the conference will be "Legends Among Us." The contact for that would be Jason Irby.

After Chairman Jackson determined that there was no further business or discussion, she asked for a motion to adjourn. Ann Clements moved to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Robert Coates, and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelli Peters, Director