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MINUTES

North Little Rock History Commission
March 10, 2026

Commission Members Present:

Suzanne Jackson, Chairman
Ann Clements
Deeana Montgomery
Sonny Rhodes
Belinda Sykes-Burney

Others Present:

Kelli Peters, Director
Cary Bradburn, Historian

Commission Members Absent:

Robert Coates

History Commission Chairman Suzanne Jackson called the March 10, 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 February 10, 2026 meeting. Sonny Rhodes 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 reported that the following items had been donated since the February meeting:

1. Five quarterlies from the National Genealogical Society (1999-2002). Donated by Suzanne Jackson.
2. National Genealogical Society Conference in the States Program Syllabus book. Donated by Suzanne Jackson.
3. Several items from Missouri Pacific. Donated by Jimmy Hill:
 - a. Two Mo-Pac patches
 - b. Mo-Pac brass key
 - c. Red plastic Mo-Pac key fob
4. Several items from the Brotherhood of Railway & Airline Clerks (BRAC). Donated by Jimmy Hill:

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- a. Clear plastic key fob (1975)
 - b. Brass delegate pin with pin attached
 - c. Brass delegate pin with no attachments
 - d. Black vinyl key fob with BRAC logo
 - e. Pink ribbon with BRAC pin for visitor to national convention (Bonnie Hill, May 1975)
5. North Little Rock High School diploma issued to Thelma Perceful, in original leather cover (1928). Donated by Suzanne Jackson.

Kelli Peters announced that she'll be doing her first presentation as director on Tuesday, March 17, for the Disciples Men at Park Hill Christian Church.

Cary Bradburn reported that a school group, of students & patrons, sponsored by the library, will tour our exhibit during a July 10 walk-about.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Jackson asked Belinda Sykes-Burney to do a scavenger hunt as a kids' activity at our new exhibit; she agreed to do that.

Deeana Montgomery reported that she has been working with Emilee Hagewood, who took Jeff Caplinger's place after his retirement, on getting the volunteer application the way we want it, and make sure it's accessible on the City's website.

She has also been working with Jamie Middleton at the Laman Library on the quarter cards (4 cards printed on one sheet of paper).

Ms. Montgomery has met with Dean Lambert at Shorter College about recruiting volunteers; she and Sonny Rhodes left a volunteer booklet with him recently. Dean Lambert said that he would like to work with a particular professor to establish an internship program. She showed the group the booklet she has compiled.

She met with Mel at Horton Brothers Printing to get prices on a pad of 100 of the quarter sheets. If they are printed onto a gummy pad, we could tear off one at a time and give them out. The price for 1600 cards (16 pads) is \$87 for black/white, \$138 for color, and \$10 for the glue.

Chairman Jackson asked Ann Clements if we should add the donors to the quarter cards but she said no. We need to keep them simple. Kelli Peters suggested that we need to add the word "volunteer" to the front of the cards to attract more attention and be able to recruit more volunteers. Chairman Jackson added that we need to include the phone number on the cards.

Kelli Peters suggested that we need to add that they can apply in one of the three ways. The way it's worded now sounds like they need to do all three in order to apply. Everyone agreed to make that adjustment.

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Deeana Montgomery said that she has had second thoughts on including her personal phone number on the cards. It was agreed that we would use the History Commission's phone number instead. Ann Clements suggested that we add that they can pick up a paper application at 506 Main Street. We should keep the logo and add bullets in boldface.

Sonny Rhodes suggested that we can give some pads to Barkley Kuy at UALR.

Ann Clements made a motion to vote on the quote to order the quarter pads in color. Belinda Sykes-Burney seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous vote.

Ann Clements reported that she is working with Emilee Hagewood regarding publicity for the exhibit. Emilee suggested 3-4 soft openings (previews) for:

1. Press & donors
2. Elected officials, City Council, & neighborhood leaders
3. Just donors (?)
4. Tourism writers (in town on May 16)
5. Downtown Council

Ann Clements said that she would put together the packets for the press and tourism writers.

It was agreed that we need to send invitations by email, if possible, to keep the costs down.

Ms. Clements told the group that Emilee advised having the previews 10 days prior to the grand opening, to maintain interest.

Belinda Sykes-Burney reminded the group about the upcoming Dark Hollow gardening group event which will draw about 3,000 participants. She can get us contacts.

Ann Clements suggested that we display the banner during the months of April, May, June, & July since we are limited to 120 days per City Code. It was suggested that we may consider using a sandwich board – would it require a permit? Cary Bradburn said that it only requires a permit if it's a permanent sign. If you take it into the building every evening, it's considered a temporary sign, and doesn't require a permit.

Chairman Jackson reported that she is compiling a punch list of things we still need to get done. For example, she wants all electrical work to be completed in one day so that we don't have extra expenses for labor.

Ann Clements said that she would write a blurb for the website QR codes. Each section will have its own QR code.

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Chairman Jackson suggested that teachers could help develop the curriculum & programs for school groups. She also said that we may need Hispanic translations built into the QR codes. We also need to consider making accommodations for those with other disabilities such as the hearing impaired, etc.

Kelli Peters updated the group on former director Sandra Taylor Smith's condition, and told them that she had visited her two days prior, but she doesn't have long to live. Chairman Jackson asked her to check with Kandy Jones and Dan Scott to see what they need. The Commission would love to help. She also asked Ms. Peters to keep them posted. She suggested that they may be able to provide food for the family.

After Chairman Jackson determined that there was no further business or discussion, she asked for a motion to adjourn. Sonny Rhodes moved to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Belinda Sykes-Burney, and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelli Peters".

Kelli Peters, Director