



506 MAIN ST · NORTH LITTLE ROCK · AR · 72114-5330 · (501) 371-0755 · nlrhistory@nlr.ar.gov

MINUTES

North Little Rock History Commission
May 12, 2026

Commission Members Present:

Suzanne Jackson, Chairman
Ann Clements
Deeana Montgomery
Sonny Rhodes

Others Present:

Kelli Peters, Director
Cary Bradburn, Historian

Commission Members Absent:

Robert Coates
Belinda Sykes-Burney

History Commission Chairman Suzanne Jackson called the May 12, 2026 meeting of the North Little Rock History Commission to order at 5:43 P.M. and quorum was established.

Chairman Jackson asked Commissioners if they had read the minutes of the April 14, 2026 meeting. Ann Clements moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Sonny Rhodes 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 April meeting:

1. Blueprints of the First American National Bank building (later the City Services building) (August 1966). Donated in January 2026 by Mayor Terry Hartwick.
2. Sears bag from McCain Mall store (c. 2015). Donated by Monty Bradburn.
3. Pharmacy sack (c. 1980s). Donated by Kelli Peters.
4. Tea towel with birthday message for Janice Thurow's 99th birthday – added to the Thurow Family collection. Donated by Kelli Peters.

North Little Rock History Commission Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2026

Page 2

5. 10 Clendenin Elementary PTA scrapbooks (1937-1973). Note: the 1937 scrapbook has a tooled leather cover with embossed image of the school building on the cover. Donated by Beverly Kelso.
6. 1929, 1930, & 1931 North Little Rock High School Wildcat yearbooks. Donated by Prissy Petty Gray.
7. Quill & Scroll I.H.S.H.S.J. pin that belonged to Pat Green Scruggs (NLRHS '64). Donated by Pat Scruggs.
8. RJHS (Ridgeroad Jr. High School) pin worn by Pat Green Scruggs (1961). Donated by Pat Scruggs.
9. FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) pin worn by Danny Scruggs (1961). Donated by Pat Scruggs.
10. Wirt's Jewelers bag (2026). Donated by Pat Scruggs.
11. 8 x 10 B/W photo of mail delivery of rocks/stones ultimately used for the North Little Rock Sundial. Photo features unidentified reporter, Audrey Burtrum-Stanley, & Charley Baxter. Donated by Carole Baxter.
12. Signed copy of "On the Opposite Shore" by Cary Bradburn. Donated by LaWanda Simmons.
13. 1985 *Hot Lead* literary publication by students of Ole Main High School. Donated by Rebecca Lemley-McGraw.

Cary Bradburn reported that John Gaudin said that the travel writers would arrive on Thursday around 2:30 PM, and that we are getting the exhibit space cleaned up for their arrival.

Ann Clements reported on the status of the exhibit. She has been working with Emilee Hagewood about the QR codes for the website. She has issued a media release about the travel writers' visit to our exhibit on Thursday. They are to be here around 2:30-3:00 that day. She is putting together paper folders with logo stickers on the front for them to take with them. The folders will include copies of the various sections of the exhibit and a short summary of who we are, what we do, and about the exhibit itself. She told the group that Heather Kouns, of North Little Rock Tourism, has the travel writers' schedule.

She asked who should take photos of us answering their questions. Should it be Emilee? She can get with Rachel O'Neal Chaney, of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, about doing some publicity.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Jackson told the commissioners that the Argenta Plaza is now under construction but the entire Plaza isn't closed off. Perhaps we could use the open part if we need it.

Ann Clements reported that the deadline for Dennis to finish the graphic art is still June 29. We will hold our soft openings in July.

Deeana Montgomery gave an update on our efforts to recruit volunteers. She has reached out to the Hays Senior Center by taking a volunteer recruitment pad there. She said that we need sources of information for volunteers to give to visitors who are looking for other things to do, where to eat, etc.

North Little Rock History Commission Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2026

Page 3

She then suggested that History Commission members sit at the front desk for at least one shift to get real world experience, to see what it's like to do that. She would like for commissioners to serve as backups should any volunteers call in or not show up for some reason.

The group discussed what our bathroom policy should be once the exhibit opens. It was suggested that we keep a key at the front desk so that patrons have to ask for it. It was also suggested that we have an auto lock on the door. We need to check with Legal to see if there are any ramifications to having certain bathroom restrictions.

The commissioners agreed that training the volunteers as a group would be a better way to handle their training.

Deeana Montgomery gave an update on the celebration at the Old Mill, coming up on May 16. She has a laminated poster of the logo designed by Dan & Rachel Koops. It will be framed and given as the grand prize at the event. The History Commission will have a table with chairs and awning at the event. We will hand out scavenger hunts and golf pencils to the kids so that they will have something fun to do while they're there. We will put stickers on sacks of candy and give them out as prizes for the children once they bring us their completed scavenger hunts.

We will need a sign to put on the front of our table. Ann Clements volunteered to laminate two signs so Kelli Peters printed them on large paper. We will also provide a sign-up sheet for Friends of North Little Rock History. Chairman Jackson asked Sonny Rhodes to create the sign-up sheet, to which he agreed. Chairman Jackson said that we need to collect pictures and take the diorama to put on our table at the event.

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 Sonny Rhodes, and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kelli Peters", written in a cursive style.

Kelli Peters, Director