



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

MINUTES

North Little Rock History Commission
July 14, 2026

Commission Members Present:

Suzanne Jackson, Chairman
Ann Clements
Robert Coates
Deeana Montgomery
Belinda Sykes-Burney

Others Present:

Kelli Peters, Director
Cary Bradburn, Historian

Commission Members Absent:

Sonny Rhodes

History Commission Chairman Suzanne Jackson called the July 14, 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 May 12, 2026 meeting. Ann Clements moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Belinda Sykes-Burney 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 May meeting:

1. Original Lakewood promotional brochure issued by Justin Matthews. Donated by Austin Matthews.
2. Two (2) construction viewing windows from the post office at 420 Main. Donated by Austin Matthews.
3. *Arkansas – A People and their Reputation* by David M. Tucker (1985). Donated by Suzanne Jackson.
4. *Historic Arkansas* by John L. Ferguson & J. H. Atkinson (1966). Donated by Suzanne Jackson.

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5. *Arkansas Township Atlas* by the Arkansas Genealogical Society (Russell P. Baker) (1984). Donated by Suzanne Jackson.
6. *General Highway & Transportation Maps – Counties of Arkansas* by Arkansas State Highway Commission (1939). Donated by Suzanne Jackson.
7. *North Little Rock High School Handbook for Students & Parents* (1961-1962). Donated by J. S. Daniel.
8. North Little Rock High School commencement program (1964). Donated by J. S. Daniel.
9. Chrome key ring/mirror with “NLRHS Prom 2008” printed on it (salvaged from the high school). Donated by Suzanne Jackson.
10. Northeast High School Vespers/Commencement program (June 1985). Donated by Debra Wood.
11. Northeast High School graduation invitation (1985). Donated by Debra Wood.
12. School pennants from Glenview Elementary (Glenview Chargers) & Lynch Drive Elementary. Donated by Stanislaus Whittlesey.

Deeana Montgomery gave an update on the search for volunteers. She reported that she has tried to contact Angela Wirt, with the Mayor’s Office of Volunteerism, several times but has gotten no response. She stressed the need to get all of the applications that have been submitted by potential volunteers. Kelli Peters reported that she went by the Hays Senior Center to see if she could speak with either Angela Wirt or Jim Scott, the new director of the Center. She met with Jim Scott, who told her that Angela had been out for a while and there is no way to get into her computer to retrieve our applications.

Ms. Montgomery asked if we were including the installation of an emergency button at the front desk for volunteers to use discreetly if dangerous situations arise. Ms. Jackson told her that we have discussed it and we do plan on including that during the construction phase.

Ann Clements pointed out the need to recruit more volunteers – ideally, we would like to have at least 22-24 volunteers. She will create an online, fillable application form for us to use, and she will put it on Google Drive so that we can access it at any time.

Chairman Jackson asked her to contact IT to see if they can get into her computer. Ms. Peters said that she would contact them the next morning.

Cary Bradburn stressed the importance of hiring a full-time person to run the museum. Chairman Jackson said that we need to include that in next year’s budget request. It was suggested that we contact our aldermen to get support for this.

Robert Coates said that students at Pulaski Tech are looking for internships but most prefer paid internships. He added that AI is becoming more & more prevalent.

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Ann Clements suggested that we email those who signed in at the Old Mill 50-Year celebration to see if we can recruit additional volunteers. Ms. Montgomery said that she would get with Shara Hutchcraft & Emilee Hagewood about getting the word out. Belinda Sykes-Burney said that she would contact Neighborhood Services about getting the word out.

Ms. Clements suggested that we should remove the ambassadors from the volunteer manual since their hours don't really coincide with the times we would be open.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Jackson gave the Commission an update of the exhibit construction. She told them that we had given Dennis & Rick a deadline of June 30 to finish, and that seemed to light a fire under them. We really needed for them to finish at a faster pace than they had been working.

She reported that the only sections we still lack are Neighborhoods, the reception area, the east wall of the roundhouse, and the panels that go in Business & Commerce. She is ordering 2 more screens. One is to go in the Neighborhoods section. She also suggested that we create a "punch list" of things we still need to get done. We need to specify everything that the electrician needs to do so that he can do it at one time.

Ann Clements reported that she has the QR codes written for the website. She will get with Emilee on printing the QR codes to put on the exhibit panels.

Ms. Clements asked if we should have the ribbon cutting at 10:00 AM on September 17. This would service as a preview for the media & VIPs. We will also hold previews for the various groups.

Chairman Jackson asked Belinda Sykes-Burney if she would put together a scavenger hunt for kids for the exhibit. She asked Robert Coates if he had asked Pulaski Tech's Dean of Fine Arts about getting volunteers. Deana Montgomery stated that she & Sonny Rhodes had already visited with the Dean about that.

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 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelli Peters, Director