

A regular meeting of the Collierville Heritage Commission was held February 10th, 2015 at 2:30pm at the Morton Museum of Collierville History, located at 196 N. Main Street, Collierville, Tennessee.

The following members of the Heritage Commission were present: Taylor Stamps, Joe Clayton, John Shepherd, Clarene Russell, Mary Alice Brock, Cheri Kilmurray, and Kayla Smith. Jennifer Cordell, Betty Edmunds, Nancy Bassett, and Mayor Stan Joyner were absent.

Staff members present were Assistant Town Administrator Josh Suddath, Museum Director Ashley Carver, and Collections and Special Projects Coordinator Brooke Mundy.

Also present was Mr. Lee Millar and Mr. John Leake.

Mrs. Russell called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM January 13th, 2015

Mrs. Russell asked if there were any corrections or additions needed to the January 13th, 2015 meeting minutes.

Mr. Clayton made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Shepherd. All were in favor, none were opposed. Motion is approved.

Presentation by Lee Millar

Mrs. Russell introduced Mr. Lee Millar, member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Mr. Millar stated the Sons of the Confederate Veterans (SCV), Wigfall Grays Camp, actively promote and take steps to preserve Collierville's Civil War history. To these ends, the SCV would like to add three Civil War cannons around Collierville Town Square to interpret the area's Civil War history. There were six cannons in the area during the war.

Mr. Millar stated from time to time the National Park Service (NPS) gives away their cannon carriages, not the barrels, to nonprofit groups, parks, and government entities in order of priority, government entities being higher on the list. To get on the list, a letter is sent to the NPS, requesting the cannon carriages. By having the Town write the letter, Mr. Millar stated that their request would be higher on the list.

Mr. Millar stated he spoke with Mayor Joyner and Mr. Suddath about the request, and that Mayor Joyner requested he bring the request before the Heritage Commission.

Mr. Millar stated the cannon carriages cost approximately \$13,000, so there's a large savings, if they can be acquired through the NPS program. The Wigfall Grays would refurbish the carriages and raise money to purchase the barrels and place historical markers with them around Town.

Mr. Millar stated the cannons could be placed in front of the Museum and where the Confederate line advanced from, but those places would ultimately be determined in consultation with the Heritage Commission.

Mrs. Kilmurray asked about the cost associated with the historical markers.

Mr. Millar stated the Wigfall Grays would pay for the markers.

Mrs. Kilmurray asked if Mr. Millar had a sense of what they would say.

Mr. Millar stated no, but they would explain what the cannons are there for and their significance in that location.

Mrs. Russell stated the wording for the markers would have to be approved by the Heritage Commission.

Mr. Suddath asked Mr. Millar to explain the process of applying for the grant.

Mr. Millar stated the Wigfall Grays would apply for the grant and would own the cannons and they would seek donations to refurbish the cannons.

Mr. Suddath asked why the Town of Collierville needed to be involved and what their responsibility would be.

Mr. Millar stated that the Town of Collierville would write the letter to the NPS requesting the cannon carriages, so they are higher on the list.

Mr. Suddath asked if the Town of Collierville would be formally applying for the carriages.

Mr. Millar stated yes, the Town of Collierville would be applying for the carriages with the NPS then giving them to the SCV to take over the project.

Mrs. Russell asked if the Town has the right to give the carriages away.

Mr. Suddath stated he was unsure if the Town could receive items from a federal grant, then turnaround and give them away.

Mrs. Russell asked if the Town's attorneys should be consulted on this project to make sure this could be done.

Mr. Stamps asked if the NPS is loaning the carriages or giving them away.

Mr. Millar stated the NPS is giving the carriages away and he worked on a similar project that acquired two cannons from Shiloh National Park for Germantown. Germantown gave the cannons to the Sons of the Confederate Veterans who did the work to get them displayed.

Mr. Suddath stated for clarification, the proposal is for the Town of Collierville to apply to the Federal Government for the carriages, then the Town would give them to the SCV, then the SCV would loan them back to the Town with a set of conditions in regard to display.

Mr. Suddath stated Mrs. Russell's recommendation to have the Town of Collierville's attorneys review this proposal is probably wise, as it deals with a set of circumstance regarding Town property that is highly unusual.

Mr. Suddath stated he does not discourage the Heritage Commission from considering the proposal, but provided the Town of Collierville's lawyers have an opportunity to review the proposal and offer their guidance from a legal perspective.

Mr. Millar stated the Wigfall Grays would work with private property owners, if necessary, to get them displayed. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Leake stated the condition on the loan is to ensure the carriages are used in a historical display and if that ceased to happen, the SCV would get the carriages back so they could be used elsewhere.

Mr. Clayton made a motion that the SCV Wigfall Grays and the Town of Collierville discuss the proposal and bring back to the Heritage Commission specific answers to the questions regarding the legality of the project and how it would unfold for them to consider, seconded by Mr. Shepherd. All were in favor, none were opposed. Motion is approved.

Mr. Stamps made a motion that the Heritage Commission and Museum support the project, seconded by Mr. Clayton.

Mrs. Kilmurray asked if the carriages could remain Town property and the Wigfall Grays still handle the restoration.

Mr. Millar stated the members would be more inspired to pay for the cannons if they were owned by the Sons of Confederate Veterans club.

Mrs. Russell repeated Mr. Stamps' motion for the Heritage Commission to support the project, subject to review by the Town of Collierville's attorneys, seconded by Mr. Clayton. All were in favor, none were opposed. Motion is approved.

Museum Director's Report

Ms. Carver stated 570 people visited in January, largely due to great Lunch n' learn attendance, and tours of our temporary exhibit.

Ms. Carver stated this month's Lunch n' Learn programming continues with a film viewing about our current exhibit and lecture on DNA Testing for Genealogy.

Ms. Carver stated the Museum's current traveling exhibit continues to receive a lot of attention from school tours, groups, and drop-ins. The last day for the exhibit will be Sat., March 5th. We are finalizing details for our next exhibit of collage artworks by Collierville Middle School Advanced Art Students who worked with turn-of-the century photos by Ms. Bessie Dean Parr Photographer. This will be up by our next meeting on March 9th.

Ms. Carver stated the Museum is hosting the Contemporary Club's tea and a meeting of the Descendants of Early Settlers of Shelby Co. The Museum will also be represented at the Collierville Schools District Learning day this Friday.

Ms. Carver stated that at there is an art display by Collierville high school students at Town Hall. The art on display represents the Silver and Honorable Mention winners of the Mid-South

Scholastic Art competition from CHS. The Gold winners can be viewed at the Brooks Museum in Memphis.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Mundy presented one donation for the Heritage Commission to consider from Mrs. Russell:

- Civil War era gun receipt with letter of authentication, ca. 1860-1865.

Mr. Shepherd made a motion to accept the items, seconded by Mrs. Brock. All were in favor, none were opposed. Motion is approved.

Mrs. Russell asked the Commission if anyone had any unfinished business to bring before the Heritage Commission.

Mrs. Kilmurray stated she recently heard about the passing of Mr. Tommy Shepherd. The Museum has his veteran oral history archived and online at the Museum's YouTube channel.

Ms. Carver stated the Museum also contains a video oral history of his memories growing up in Collierville, recorded by students at St. George's Independent School.

Mrs. Brock asked about the status of the Newby donation.

Ms. Carver stated the Newby Collection gives important insight on Harrell's Drug Store, the business, and life and commerce of Town Square during 1940s-1950s. However, the Museum has limited display space and needs to be flexible, so exhibits can rotate.

Ms. Carver listed short term and long goals to balance the needs of the Museum with Mrs. Nancy Newby Perkins's desire to donate the items:

Short Term Goals

- Record detailed information about individual items. This includes professionally photographing each item for purposes of future reference, exhibition, and research.
- Start planning a temporary exhibit on Harrell's Drug Store to go on the curved wall in the Permanent Gallery. Suggested dates: June – December 2016; Objects maybe able to be rotated each few months.
- Record an oral history interview with Mrs. Perkins to document her memories of Harrell's Drug Store.
- Recruit students and/or volunteers to research businesses on Town Square in 1940s-1950s.

Long Term Goals

- Invest in additional exhibit cases for the Permanent Gallery where items from the Nancy Perkins Collection and other items could be on display.
- Develop a large exhibition in the Temporary Gallery for 2017 that details life and commerce on Town Square in the 1940s-1950s. As part of the exhibition planning process, contact family members who owned businesses on the Square during this time for oral history interviews, photos, and any other related items that could be used in the exhibit or donated to the Museum.

Mrs. Kilmurray stated she is interested in learning more about getting an app for mobile devices that could give information about the history of Town Square.

Mr. Suddath stated the Town of Collierville explored the idea of an app a few years ago and the price was a few thousand dollars, but the prices have probably come down.

Mrs. Russell stated that she always heard Mr. Herman Wright say that his grandfather brought dirt and trees from the bottoms to develop Town Square. The area was originally gullies and undesirable land.

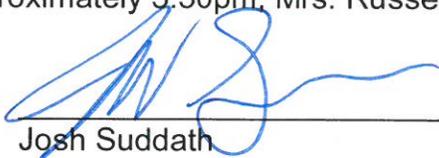
Mrs. Russell stated the north side was probably the first side of the Town Square to develop. Discussion ensued on the development of Town Square.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, at approximately 3:30pm, Mrs. Russell adjourned the meeting.



Mrs. Clarene Russell
Chairman, Heritage Commission



Josh Suddath
Assistant Town Administrator