

A regular meeting of the Collierville Heritage Commission was held March 9th, 2016 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, Betty Edmunds, Nancy Bassett, Mayor Stan Joyner, and Kayla Smith. Jennifer Cordell and John Shepherd were absent.

Staff members present were Assistant Town Administrator Josh Suddath and Museum Director Ashley Carver.

Mrs. Russell called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM February 10th, 2016

Mrs. Russell asked if there were any corrections or additions needed to the February 10th, 2016 meeting minutes.

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

Museum Director's Report

Ms. Carver stated 578 people visited in February, in contrast to 284 visitors last February. The Lunch n' Learn program continues to draw a large crowd.

Ms. Carver stated this month's Lunch n' Learn programming continues with a lecture by Ron Bister on Native American culture and prehistory and a talk by John McKenney on March 24 on the steam locomotive 1351 on Town Square.

Ms. Carver stated Ms. Mundy is currently installing our next temporary exhibit, a collection of collage artwork by advanced art students at Collierville Middle School, led by Marci Wheeler and Jo Powers. The exhibit will open with a reception on Saturday, March 12, at 10am.

Mr. Clayton stated Mrs. Wheeler is his granddaughter.

Ms. Carver stated that March is Youth Art Month. Ms. Mundy has worked with art teachers at Schilling Farms Middle School to exhibit 8th grade artwork at Town Hall, 6th grade artwork at the Museum, and 7th grade artwork at the Harrell Theatre.

Ms. Carver stated that later in March, she and Ms. Mundy will be attending the Tennessee Association of Museum's conference in Nashville.

Ms. Carver stated the Collierville Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a luncheon at the Museum on March 17 and going forward, they may be interested in hosting a regular monthly luncheon at the Museum.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Mr. Suddath stated he wanted to update the Heritage Commission on the proposal brought before the Commission by Mr. Lee Millar at the last meeting [February 10, 2016]. After the meeting, he sought the opinion of the Town's attorneys to get an objective opinion as to whether the proposal fits with the Town's policies. They provided a Memorandum that recommended the Town not participate in the program because of issues of ownership and conditions placed on Town property. They also said it raises issues regarding free speech and viewpoint restrictions. They recommended the Town not set a precedent of cooperating to put up displays with outside groups no matter who is it.

Mr. Suddath distributed copies of the Memorandum from Burch, Porter, and Johnson.

Mayor Joyner stated he thought about the appearance of the Town taking ownership of property of something, the Town did not buy. The Town does not want to give the appearance of defrauding the National Park Service.

Mrs. Russell asked why the Wigfall Grays would not let the Town retain ownership of the cannons.

Mr. Suddath stated that they were not interested in going forward if the Wigfall Grays could not own them.

Mrs. Russell asked if the Wigfall Grays had made a decision on the project.

Mr. Suddath stated he sent the Town attorney's opinion to Mr. Millar and Mr. John Leake and they replied that they were sorry it would not work out.

Mrs. Kilmurray asked if the Wigfall Grays could still apply for the cannons on their own.

Mr. Suddath stated they could apply for the cannons.

Mrs. Kilmurray asked if the Wigfall Grays were to acquire them, does the attorney's opinion recommended they not be put on public property.

Mr. Suddath stated the Memorandum did not cover that issue, but the Board of Mayor and Aldermen could consider it, if brought before them.

Mrs. Brock asked if allowing them would be same as allowing the Girl Scouts to display something.

Mr. Suddath stated that there may be some issues with the Town allowing groups to place any sign on public property, but he was originally just looking at the issue from an ownership perspective.

Mrs. Bassett stated the cannon currently on Town Square was donated to the Town and was acquired by privately raised funds. It was not affiliated with any group.

Mayor Joyner stated the cannon is on railroad property, not the Town's property, and they had to give permission for it to be there.

Mrs. Russell stated that it is her understanding the railroad's property extends 50 feet from the middle of the tracks.

Mr. Clayton asked who owns the VFW Lodge on Center Street.

Mayor Joyner stated he thought the tax assessor's office listed the Robert T. Jamison trust on the deed, but it may be owned by the local VFW chapter.

Mrs. Russell stated Robert T. Jamison was one of the first casualties of WWII from Collierville.

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

Mayor Joyner stated that there has been a committee formed for the restoration of steam engine 1351. The Town set aside some money for the restoration and recently the committee has purchased an authentic train whistle for it.

Mayor Joyner stated the City of Memphis owns the train, but Mayor Strickland's office is interested in coming to an amiable agreement to give Collierville some type of ownership rights.

Ms. Carver stated the Museum has a webpage devoted to the restoration project where people can learn about the status of the project and history of the train. The Museum is also exploring interpretative markers, so visitors can learn more about the history of the engine and railroad history in Collierville.

Ms. Carver stated Mr. John McKenney will be at the Museum on March 24 at 11am to speak about the history and mechanics of engine 1351.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Ms. Carver said the Museum is busier than ever, largely due to the new parking lot. The Lunch n' Learn crowds continue to draw a large attendance, with most programs have more than 50 attendees.

Mrs. Brock asked about the time and theme of the Lunch n' Learn programs. Discussion ensued about time, reservations, cost, and upcoming programs.

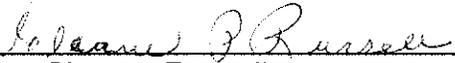
Mrs. Kilmurray stated Main Street Collierville received a grant to produce a 60-second movie to promote downtown Collierville shopping, restaurants, cultural fixtures, and attractions. She hopes it will include the Museum, Biblical Museum, and other locations. It will be posted on the Main Street Facebook page and completed in April.

Mayor Joyner stated that he was informed by Layne McDonald Ministries that they just finished shooting a movie on Main Street in Collierville. There is no mention of Collierville in the film, but you will be able to recognize the Town. A movie trailer is available at www.thecominghomemovie.com.

Mrs. Russell stated the next meeting will be on April 13th at 2:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, at approximately 3:05pm, Mrs. Russell adjourned the meeting.



Mrs. Clarene Russell
Chairman, Heritage Commission



Josh Suddath
Assistant Town Administrator