

Board of Directors Meeting

Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home, Inc.

February 14, 2023

MINUTES

The monthly meeting of the Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home Board of Directors met at 203 S. Commerce Avenue, Russellville City Hall, First Floor Conference Room, on February 14, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. Vice President Betsy McGuire called the meeting to order.

Board Members present:

Suzanne Alford
Margaret Bagby
Randy Hendrix
Bob Hiegel
Betsy McGuire
Jane Pittman
Julie Paladino Vaughn

Also in Attendance:

Ellen Collins
Deborah Dejohnette
Toi Drummer
Debi Headly
Array Gilkey
Sara Jondahl
Garry Penman
Sarah Stephens

Call to Order & Welcome Directors and Guests – Vice President Betsy McGuire called the meeting to order in place of President Randy Hendrix who was running shortly behind in attending.

Roll Call – Secretary, Ms. Julie Paladino Vaughn announced roll call. Mr. Steve Bennett and Mr. Marshall Morris were absent.

Finding of Quorum – Ms. Paladino Vaughn found a quorum.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Suzanne Alford made a motion to approve the January 2023 Board minutes as presented. Mr. Bob Hiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Treasurer Margaret Bagby

Ms. Margaret Bagby stated the current balance to be at \$90,666.52. A copy of the bank statement ending in January is attached to these minutes. Mr. Hiegel made a motion to accept the financial report. Ms. Jane Pittman seconded the motion. Motion accepted.

City Planner Report – Sara Jondahl

Ms. Sara Jondahl stated the city of Russellville is applying for a 25-million-dollar grant to expand the Russellville trail system. This would expand the trail at least 13 miles and would connect to the existing trail system. Ms. Jondahl is requesting that a letter be sent to the Secretary of Transportation from the Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home Board, supporting the grant opportunity that is available. It is not a matching grant. Ms. McGuire made a motion to write a letter requesting the financial assistance. Mr. Hiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sub Committee Reports:

Design/Planning – Bob Hiegel, Chair

Mr. Hiegel reported that the committee had a telephone conference call with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Lots seven and eight were approved for the location of the home. Mr. Hiegel and Mr. Bennett met with Mr. Trent Ford on the job site. He is going to help rebuild the stairs that go into the entrance of the Latimore Tourist Home. Mr. Ford is also going to help reinforce the floor where it is rotted, while the house is still jacked up. Mr. Hiegel also visited with Mr. Shane Butler. Mr. Butler is going to help with the clearing of the site. Stripping the topsoil and bringing in field dirt will be part of the process in getting the site ready for the home. Mr. Hendrix recalled a house that was in the same temporary location of where the Latimore House currently sits. He recalls the bread man, Mr. Epperson and his three boys living there. After they moved out, it became a rent house. Mr. Hendrix said the color of the home was a blue gray. Please find a copy of the Design and Planning Committee report attached to these minutes.

Fundraising – Suzanne Alford, Chair

Ms. Suzanne Alford stated applying for a small grant from the Community Foundation is underway. Ms. Alford also stated that she believes we need to look at doing more news releases. Ms. McGuire added that a social media training is scheduled for Thursday, February 16th with Ms. Hope Adair with the Brainstorm Agency. Ms. McGuire added that we have a great team, but dynamics do change over time, and we just need to move and carry on. Mr. Hendrix stated we need to keep our spirits up and look for people to help carry this goal onward. Ms. Alford invited anyone to attend an art show at Arkansas Tech University on Wednesday, February 15th at Norman Hall. Mr. Hiegel is working on an Arkansas Heritage grant. Ms. Pittman and Ms. Alford attended the Pope County Symphony Guild dinner. They were able to discuss the Latimore Tourist Home with a few people.

Operation – Julie Paladino Vaughn, Chair

Ms. Paladino Vaughn suggested that we get a letter of support from Mayor Fred Teague. Letters of support are important documents to attach with grant applications. Ms. McGuire added that we have the March Art Walk approaching, and looking at a location for the Latimore Tourist Home to have for the event will need to be determined.

Outreach – Betsy McGuire, Chair

Ms. McGuire provided the Outreach Committee report. An archival event is still in the process during Family History Month, which is October. The grant that Ms. Alford is applying for would help secure a recorder and a flatbed scanner. The archival event would be great to have at the

Downtown Depot. Ms. Paladino Vaughn will reach out to Mainstreet to see what Saturday in October would be best and available. Ms. McGuire encouraged other organizations to be involved in the event as well. The importance of branding is also something we need to keep in mind for when the Latimore Tourist Home is completed. Ms. Alford stated she would love to see a Russellville coloring book be established for children. Ms. McGuire offered to reach out to Ms. Christie Graham to see if the Advertising and Promotion Commission might be interested in a project like that. Ms. McGuire stated we need to give ourselves some grace and remember that we are doing a whole lot. Please find copy of the Outreach Committee report attached to these minutes.

Old Business:

Ms. Paladino Vaughn stated that during the January month Board meeting, Ms. Mary Cohoon asked the Board if we needed to have the Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home logo trademarked. Ms. Paladino Vaughn investigated it further and that is something that would be applied for from the Arkansas Secretary of State. Mr. Hiegel made a motion to move forward on looking at getting the logo trademarked. Ms. Pittman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business:

It was determined that an Outreach meeting needed to be scheduled to prepare for the March Art Walk that will be on Friday, March 3rd, since the next regular scheduled committee meeting would not be until after the Art Walk. Tuesday, February 28th at 10:00 a.m. was decided on to meet to discuss the planning of the Art Walk.

Announcements:

March Committee Meetings will be on Tuesday, March 7th. The next Board Meeting is Tuesday, March 14th at 12:00 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room, City Hall. The First Friday Breakfast will be Friday, March 3rd at the Center of the Arts at 7:30 a.m. Mayor Fred Teague will be the main speaker.

Adjournment – Mr. Hendrix