

Board of Directors Meeting

Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home, Inc.

December 10, 2024

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 December 10, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. Board President Randy Hendrix called the meeting to order.

Board Members present:

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

Also in Attendance:

Ellen Collins
Carolyn Creel
Deborah DeJohnette
Toi Drummer
Array Gilkey
Charity Park
Victoria Marchant

Call to Order & Welcome Directors and Guests – Board President Randy Hendrix called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Board Secretary, Ms. Julie Paladino Vaughn announced roll call. Ms. Betsy McGuire introduced a guest, Ms. Susan Shaddox, Interior Designer and the Interior Design Consultant with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Main Street Arkansas Program. She would love to help with the design/interior of the Latimore Tourist Home, such as with sourcing wall coverings and flooring materials that could replicate the originals. Ms. McGuire is going to give her a walkthrough of the home after the meeting.

Finding of Quorum – Mr. Hendrix found a quorum.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. McGuire made a motion to approve the November minutes. Ms. Suzanne Alford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Treasurer Margaret Bagby

Ms. Margaret Bagby provided the Finance Report. She stated the current money market account balance is at \$54,413.73, while the checking account balance is at \$3,389.16. The total of the two

accounts combined is \$57,802.89. A copy of the Arvest Bank statements ending in November and a copy of the Finance Report are attached to these minutes. Ms. Alford made a motion to approve the Finance Report. Mr. Bob Hiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

City Planner Report – Sara Jondahl

No report.

Sub Committee Reports:

Design/Planning – Bob Hiegel, Chair

Mr. Bob Hiegel stated that Mr. Kendal Hern is finishing up the windows. Mr. Hiegel checked into a City Corp bill that we received. There was some billing that we were uncertain about if we owe. Ms. McGuire is going to pull some deposits that we have paid to help verify if the billing is correct. Mr. Hiegel also stated the process of getting Ms. Lashana Bowes paid is ongoing, but hopeful it is getting close to the end.

Fundraising – Suzanne Alford, Chair

Ms. Alford discussed the Movie Night fundraiser and finalizing the amount raised. It was an educational event at All Saints Episcopal Church. It was well attended, and Ms. Alford mentioned that someone said it was “magical.” Ms. Alford discussed what she has learned with studying fundraising. We have a historic home between two of the oldest neighborhoods, which might fit with some grant requirements. Ms. Jane Pittman’s Holiday Glow Art Walk raffle winner will be drawn on the evening on Friday, December 13th.

Operation – Julie Paladino Vaughn, Chair

Ms. Paladino Vaughn stated that the Holiday Glow Art Walk will be this coming Friday, December 13th. There is a sign-in sheet at the front table. If you are available for any amount of time that you can volunteer for that evening, please sign up. The event time is from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There are three shifts available. We will be housed inside the American Legion Hut. Board members will have the Chamber Annual Meeting to attend this coming Thursday, December 12th at 11:00 a.m. Ms. Paladino Vaughn asked if everyone wanted to have the annual Year-End meeting following the January 2025 regular Board Meeting. We also need to ask the Mayor if he would like a presentation for the City Council updating them on where we are with the home.

Outreach – Betsy McGuire, Chair

Ms. McGuire discussed the Fundraising and Outreach committee meeting on December 3rd. We did a walkthrough of the home, and it was a great group. It was very beneficial to have Ms. Charity Park there as well, who is a professional archivist. It will also be very beneficial to have a designer walk through it. Ms. McGuire stated that it was decided to schedule the Fundraising and Outreach meetings together since there is so much overlap. The calendar of events overview was discussed. We do so much outreach that is important. Ms. McGuire mentioned a mailer that was received from Congressman Bruce Westerman’s office. It had a layout of many of the items that his office has covered. This made Ms. McGuire think of the many items that we have accomplished. “Know your numbers, and your numbers will set you free.” Ms. Paladino Vaughn mentioned if perhaps we should invite Congressman Westerman to do a walkthrough. He has an office at the 500 Building. We need to find out when he will be at his office and share with him information on what we are doing with the home. Ms. Alford stated there are eight social studies teachers at Russellville High School. We need to get young people involved in the project. Ms. Alford stated we want them to know what is

here. Mr. Hendrix said we have not run out of things that we need to do. Ms. McGuire reminded everyone that Ms. Jana Hall is going to help us with the website. Ms. McGuire really hopes that we have two more calendar years on this project and then we can open this project up to the public. There was discussion of a possible Art and Antiques fundraiser. Everyone was so thrilled of how the Movie Night went, that it is believed that we can really make the Art and Antiques fundraiser a really great event. Ms. Paladino Vaughn pointed out that she just pulled up minutes from December 10th, 2020, one of the first meetings held. She stated that Mr. Hiegel commented that “the need to concentrate on identifying and planning the end game regarding the future use and operation of the Latimore Home.” We have come a long way.

Old Business:

New Business:

Ms. Pittman confirmed that \$410.00 has been collected so far for the Downtown Holiday Glow Art Walk raffle.

Announcements:

- Chamber 2024 Annual Meeting, Thursday, December 12th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Cyclone Area
- Downtown Holiday Glow Art Walk – Friday, December 13th at 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Downtown
- Committee Meetings – Tuesday, January 7th, First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
- Board of Directors Meeting – Tuesday, January 14th at 12:00 p.m., First Floor Conference Room, City Hall

Adjournment – Mr. Hendrix adjourned the meeting.