

Board of Directors Meeting

Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home, Inc.

June 11, 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 June 11, 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
Julie Paladino Vaughn

Also in Attendance:

Steve Bennett	Irma Jackson
Mary Cohoon	Sara Jondahl
Ellen Collins	Ashleigh McMillian
Debbie DeJohnette	Charity Park
Toi Drummer	Tai Swicegood
Array Gilkey	

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

Roll Call – Board Secretary, Ms. Paladino Vaughn announced roll call. Ms. Jane Pittman was absent.

Finding of Quorum – Mr. Hendrix found a quorum.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Betsy McGuire made a motion to accept the May Board minutes. Mr. Bob Hiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Treasurer Margaret Bagby

Ms. Margaret Bagby provided the Finance Report. She stated the current checking account balance at \$5,623.06 and the money market account balance at \$50,338.98. A copy of the Arvest Bank statements ending in May are attached to these minutes. Ms. McGuire made a motion to approve the Finance Report. Ms. Alford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

City Planner Report – Sara Jondahl

No report.

Sub Committee Reports:

Design/Planning – Bob Hiegel, Chair

Mr. Hiegel stated the HPRG Grant cycle has been completed. All remaining invoices were submitted to the City of Russellville Finance Department on June 4th. They were paid from the City of Russellville appropriation on June 6th. The final status report will be provided by Ms. McGuire on June 14th or before. Mr. Hiegel updated everyone on the roof replacement. It was replaced in stages by Miller Roofing. One invoice of \$15,680.00 was received and paid. In regard to the siding and porch repairs, Kenner Construction has done a great job with the rehabilitation. Keener performed additional structural support on the porches in addition to replacing the porch decking such as the ceilings and dental molding. Mr. Hiegel added that two invoices were received and paid for a total of \$34,043.00. More work to the porch is desired, but more funding is in need. Herman Thompson Painting removed old paint and primed and painted most of the house at this point. Two invoices for a total of \$15,000.00 were received and paid. Additional painting will need to be done, but the primer preserves the house for now. Mr. Kendal Hern with BMR Builders has removed more windows for rehabilitation. The windows removed were in very poor condition. All the rehabilitation windows will be installed together. A total of \$29,500.00 in invoices was paid from the City appropriations to purchase needed materials. Mr. Hiegel stated that the eminent domain of lots 9 and 10 has been completed by the City of Russellville. We are still working with Ms. Bowes for her to receive the full amount that was committed to her of \$6,500.00. The Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Russellville class completed the fence bordering all four lots and at no expense to FOTLTH. They did an excellent job, and we appreciate their hard work. A water tap was installed by City Corporation. Invoices for the tap and water deposit have been received and paid for a total of \$755.00. Mr. Hiegel added he will be working with Mr. Bob Burchett of Arrow Plumbing to install water to the site later. Bailey Electric installed temporary lighting throughout the inside of the home which can be turned on from a breaker unit. Wiring is also strung to the front porch. Two invoices have been turned in for a total of \$2,113.00 and have been paid. FOTLTH was able to accomplish a lot with the HPRG24 grant. More funding is needed to continue to finish the exterior of the home. Completing the windows is expected to cost \$32,000.00, installation of the porch ceilings, posts, railings, spindles, and filigree is expected to cost \$20,000.00. The front entrance doors are expected to cost \$8,000.00. Please find a copy of the Design Committee minutes for June attached to these minutes.

Fundraising – Suzanne Alford, Chair

Prior to Ms. Alford giving the Fundraising Report, Ms. Sharon Eaton and Mr. Bill Eaton contributed \$1,000.00. Ms. Eaton presented the check during the meeting. Mr. Hendrix and everyone was very appreciative of the donation.

Ms. Alford stated May and June have been good months for fundraising, along with consistent monthly donors, as well as small donations that add up. Our Art Walk donations were greatly appreciated. A total amount of \$567.00 was collected with an estimated of hundreds of walkers passed and stopped by the Latimore table. The new campaign of "Open a Window on History" was share with many during the Art Walk. Ms. Mary Ann Rollans stopped by the Art Walk table and asked for us to look into speaking at the noon Rotary held at the Fairfield Hotel. Ms. Paladino Vaughn will be in touch with Ms. Rollans to get a speaking engagement scheduled. We have had two challengers met after First State Bank generously donated \$3,000.00 and challenged others to do the same. Ms. Alford added that her and Ms. Pittman will continue to do their visits with businesses and corporations to invite their support for the Latimore project. They plan to request an interview with Mr. Johnny Story on his local radio show to talk about the progress of the project and the "Open a

Window on History” campaign. Mr. Steve Bennett discussed the budget and latest thermometer revisions. We need to get some more money available for us and be aware that it is hard to make a budget with no money. Please find a complete Fundraising Report for June attached to these minutes.

Operation – Julie Paladino Vaughn, Chair

Ms. Paladino Vaughn stated we have registered for the Chamber Business Expo which was a total of \$425.00. The event will be held on August 15th at ATU Tucker Coliseum from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sign-up sheets are out for volunteers who are available to help for the Downtown Juneteenth events on Friday, June 14th and Saturday, June 15th. Ms. Paladino Vaughn thanked Mr. Shawn Gordon and Four Corners Wealth with their help in getting the FOTLTH Stock account set up to be able to receive the stock that was donated. Four Corners Wealth was recommended by accountant, Mr. Daniel Shoptaw. Their knowledge and expertise during the process was appreciated.

Outreach – Betsy McGuire, Chair

Ms. McGuire discussed that her and Ms. Paladino Vaughn met prior to the board meeting to get the two Square payment processors linked to the Money Market account. It is believed to be corrected but will now need to be tested with a transaction to be sure, and to see if there are other charges that occur. A plan is needed to move all of the furniture and other items in the Latimore Tourist Home. We need to keep all of the furniture, books, and miscellaneous items. A presentation is scheduled to the Russellville Kiwanis for Wednesday, June 19th. Ms. McGuire added that the stock donation process has been completed, and Ms. Paladino Vaughn assisted with getting the stock account set up with Four Corners Wealth. The Latimore Family Photo album is in the possession of Ms. Charity Park. The Russellville Memory Project was decided to be conducted in October of every other year, the next event will be in 2025. Ms. Park also has Ms. Mary Cohoon’s recordings of interviews. Ms. McGuire added that she will check with Mr. Luke Hefley on getting a Black Author series at Arkansas Tech University during Black History Month of 2025. In regard to the FOTLTH website, ATU student, Ms. Margarita, will continue updating it when she returns in the Fall semester. Ms. Debi Headley with the Mayor’s Office is working on an online City Spotlight of community events, in which she can help highlight FOTLTH. Ms. McGuire congratulated Ms. Park on the birth of her first grandchild, Gwendolyn! Please find a copy of the Outreach Committee Minutes for June attached to these minutes.

Old Business:

Mr. Tai Swicegood with River Valley Town Square spoke and gave the board an update from when he last spoke during the May board meeting on ways that we can digitally archive the restoration of the Latimore Tourist Home. This will be a way to help educate people, with 3D formats, interviews, and videos. These virtual experiences could be an add on to our current website. By July 18th, a visit to the home will be done again to get more captured. By July 1st, a video will be completed. Mr. Swicegood added that he is estimating by July 20th to have a digital experience completed. There would be no cost to the FOTLTH. Everyone was very appreciative for his generosity.

New Business:

Announcements:

- Committee Meetings – Tuesday, July 2nd, First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
- Board of Directors Meeting – Tuesday, July 9th at 12:00 p.m., First Floor Conference Room, City Hall

Adjournment – Mr. Hendrix adjourned the meeting.