

Board of Directors Meeting
Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home, Inc.
April 13, 2021
MINUTES

The monthly Board 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 April 13, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. President Randy Hendrix called the meeting to order.

Board members present:

Suzanne Alford
Margaret Bagby
Steve Bennett
Erma Booth
Randy Hendrix
Bob Hiegel
Betsy McGuire
Marshall Morris
Julie Paladino

Also in Attendance:

Mary Cohoon
Mayor Richard Harris
Debi Headley
Ima Jackson
Sara Jondahl
Victoria Marchant
Charity Park

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

Roll Call – Secretary Julie Paladino announced roll call. Members absent during roll call were Erma Booth and Marshall Morris. Both members were able to make it to the meeting after roll call.

Finding of Quorum – A quorum was found by Mr. Hendrix.

Approval of Minutes –Mr. Hendrix made the announcement for the approval of the minutes from March 9, 2021.

Ms. Betsy McGuire stated that Mr. Marshall Morris was referenced as Mr. Marshall in one sentence. Ms. Paladino stated that Mr. Bob Hiegel had requested to amend a sentence that should state that “the house would need at least 1 million dollars within two years” not “4 million dollars within two years.” Mr. Hiegel made a motion to approve as amended. Mr. Steve Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report - Treasurer Margaret Bagby announced a beginning balance of \$600.00. The ending balance as of the meeting date of April 13, 2021 stands at \$600.00. A checking account has been set up for the Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home, Inc. The four signatures of the Board officers are on the bank account. Ms. McGuire stated that there are two different copies of the bank statement at the front table. One copy is from the online version, while the other copy is the mail copy version. Copies of the bank statements are attached to these minutes.

Beginning Balance

\$600.00

Deposits

Checks

Ending Balance \$600.00

City Planner Report - Sara Jondahl – No Report.

Old Business:

Continuing all necessary steps in establishment of FOTLTH as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit:

Report on submission of Legal documents/Amending the Articles of Incorporation - Steve Bennett

Mr. Bennett stated that members should have three different items from the front table that are the following: Update of Legal Document Filings, a draft of the Arkansas Secretary of State Certificate of Amendment of a Non-Profit Corporation, and a copy of the Articles of Incorporation for Domestic Non-Profit Corporation 501c3. Copies of the documents are attached to these minutes. Mr. Bennett also had a reproduction of the Green Book for anyone who wanted to review it. Ms. McGuire stated she spoke with a representative from the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center which is having an event on Thursday, May 20th at 6:00 p.m., and it that might be good for members to attend. Mr. Bennett stated that there are two things that we need to change in the Articles of Incorporation. Currently, it states the organization type is religious corporation, but it needs to be changed to state the organization type is a public benefit. Second, we are not making distributions to other 501c3 organizations as a primary purpose, so other wording will need to be pulled from our bylaws to state our specific cause. Once changed, the Peel Law Firm will re-submit the Articles of Incorporation. Mr. Hiegel made a motion to approve the changes. Ms. McGuire seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Bennett stated that the organization accountant Daniel Shoptaw does not think we need a conflict-of-interest document for members to sign.

Set a date for meeting residents of James School Park Neighborhood - Randy Hendrix

Mr. Hendrix stated that the James School Park is currently under construction. In the meantime, it might be good to send out a letter to those in the neighborhood with progress information on the Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home Board. Ms. McGuire added that until we get the legal items firm and in place, some may not want to give until the organization is officially a 501c3.

Update on establishing a presence on the City of Russellville website for Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home, Inc. Information - Julie Paladino

With the help of James Hodge with the City of Russellville IT Department and the approval of Mayor Harris, a page has been created on the City website for the Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home. Ms. Paladino stated that she will proceed with asking the Chamber of Commerce if they would be willing to link the page to their website. Mr. Bennett added that it might be good to add the website page link to the 501c3 documents when it is submitted.

New Business: Discussion of timeline for transfer of ownership of the Latimore Home - Mayor Harris

Mayor Richard Harris stated that a plan needs to be put in place for saving the dilapidated home, moving the home, and for each element. McGuire stated that Mayor Harris is right, and everything that we are doing now is for continuing to progress. Even when that home gets moved to the park, it will have a fence most likely around the home until more progress can be continued, and that there is so much detail that goes into a project like this. Mr. Hiegel stated that the porch will have to come down, and a new porch will have to be produced to be a complete replica of the original porch. Mayor Harris suggested to put a team together to help put a plan in place. Mr. Hendrix added that he knows that it is going to be a marathon, not a sprint. It is going to be a lot of hard work. Ms. Suzanne Alford stated that a picture of the home would be good to have out to help show a vision to others of the home. Mr. Bennett added that he would not mind being part of it, and suggested Ms. Sara Jondahl with the City to be part of the planning team, as well as Ms. McGuire who agreed to assist. Ms. Jondahl added she can take the lead on setting up the meeting. Mr. Bennett also asked Mr. Hiegel to help, in which he agreed to be of help if needed on a volunteer basis. Ms. Bagby wanted clarification from Mayor Harris that this plan will need to be put into place before changing ownership of the Latimore Home. Mayor Harris agreed that was correct.

Ms. Mary Cohoon added that the Pope County Democratic Party wanted to donate towards the Latimore Home in honor of the late Mayor Tyrone Williamson. Ms. Cohoon also mentioned a video that she was letting the committee have which has local Russellville residents speaking in the video. It would be nice to video the current state of the Latimore Home prior being moved, and to interview those in the black community. The time to do these interviews is now before more people pass away. Ms. Jondahl added that having a child or young teenager might be a way to conduct the interviewing for the video. Mr. Hendrix appointed Charity Park, Victoria Marchant, Erma Booth, Erma Jackson and Margaret Bagby to the work on getting interviews and gathering photos. Ms. McGuire added that there are two handouts that at the front table, one is "The Three R's" which covers the differences between Restoration, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction, and the other document is a copy of an email from Ralph Wilcox regarding siding of the Latimore Home. The documents are attached to these minutes.

Announcements:

Reminder of Smithsonian Traveling Green Book Exhibit at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center in Little Rock on May 20th. - Betsy McGuire

Important Dates & Deadlines – Next Board meeting is Tuesday, May 11th at 12:00 p.m., First Floor Conference Room of City Hall.

Adjournment – Mr. Hendrix adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m.