

# **Board of Directors Meeting**

## **Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home, Inc.**

**May 14, 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 May 14, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. Secretary Julie Paladino Vaughn called the meeting to order.

Board Members present:

Suzanne Alford  
Margaret Bagby  
Bob Hiegel  
Marshall Morris  
Jane Pittman  
Julie Paladino Vaughn

Also in Attendance:

Steve Bennett	Debbie DeJohnette
Drew Brewington	Toi Drummer
Mary Cohoon	Sara Jondahl
Ellen Collins	Victoria Marchant
Carolyne Creel	Obee Rosales
Array Gilkey	Tai Swicegood

**Call to Order & Welcome Directors and Guests** – Board Secretary Ms. Julie Paladino Vaughn called the meeting to order. Ms. Paladino Vaughn had anyone new attending the meeting to introduce themselves.

**Roll Call** – Board Secretary, Ms. Paladino Vaughn announced roll call. Mr. Randy Hendrix and Ms. Betsy McGuire were absent.

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

**Approval of Minutes** – Mr. Bob Hiegel made a motion to accept the April Board minutes. Mr. Marshall Morris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Financial Report** – Treasurer Margaret Bagby

Ms. Margaret Bagby provided the Finance Report. Ms. Bagby stated the current checking account balance at \$2,510.00 and the money market account balance at \$51,081.93. A copy of the Arvest Bank statements ending in April are attached to these minutes. Ms. Jane Pittman made a motion to approve the Finance Report. Ms. Suzanne Alford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**City Planner Report – Sara Jondahl**

Ms. Sara Jondahl reminded everyone of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ice Cream Social on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Downtown Depot. A sign-up sheet to volunteer was available during the meeting. Ms. Paladino Vaughn thanked Ms. Jondahl and Ms. Victoria Marchant for organizing the event. Please find a copy of the event flyer attached these minutes.

**Sub Committee Reports:****Design/Planning – Bob Hiegel, Chair**

Mr. Hiegel stated that invoices associated with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) Grant with \$102,000.00 available had been turned in and they have been submitted. We did get in an invoice for Miller Roofing's work of replacing the roof which was \$15,680.00. The replacement of the siding on the house and the porch is in the works. Painting of the exterior's invoice of \$5,000.00 has been paid. The imminent domain of lots 9 and 10 process has been complete by the City of Russellville. There is still \$6,500.00 that has not yet been claimed. It may go back to the state of Arkansas if it is not claimed by the owner who has been contacted on multiple occasions. The clearing of the fencing has been done by the City of Russellville Public Works Department. Last week the Leadership Russellville class with the Chamber of Commerce started to install privacy fencing around the property. They are doing a really great job. Mr. Bob Burchett of Arrow Plumbing helped install temporary water to be hooked up for construction work and other purposes. Bailey Electric has temporarily installed lighting in the house. The invoice for that work has been received. Mr. Hiegel reminded everyone that this is rehabilitation not a restoring. We need to make it more modern for today such as adding more outlets. Mr. Hiegel stated we have to unbuild it before we can rebuild it. Ms. Alford added that a great example of this type of work is the Downtown Depot. Please find a copy of the Design/Planning Committee status for May attached to these minutes.

**Fundraising – Suzanne Alford, Chair**

Ms. Suzanne Alford stated the ATU fundraising event at the James School Park and the Latimore Tourist Home turned out great. Many people did a tour of the home. The Pope County Library Book Mobile was also there as well. We had cash and check donations from the event. Over \$2,000.00 was raised. Wood worker, Mr. Kendal Hern was at the event to discuss the importance of the windows of the home. The average cost of a wood window is around \$3,000.00 for the house. There are 22 windows in the home. The windows will have a separate fundraising campaign called "Open a Window on History." First State Bank made the first donation of \$3,000.00. They will challenge other entities to do the same. Ms. Paladino Vaughn asked if this might be an event to be held every year, and it certainly could be especially if we partner with ATU students for added assistance. Mr. Steve Bennett has updated the fundraising thermometer. Please find the updated version attached to these minutes. Ms. Pittman discussed how great the meeting went between the board and Mr. Chuck Garrett, CEO of Cherokee Nation that was held on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Dan Carter with Cherokee Nation was also in attendance in the meeting, as well as Ms. Jennifer McGill and Ms. Allison Burum who oversee the Legends Resort & Casino Office located in downtown Russellville. A tour of the home was also done with Mr. Garrett and his team following the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Paladino Vaughn thanked Ms. Pittman for all her hard work in helping set up the meeting.

**Operation** – Julie Paladino Vaughn, Chair

Ms. Paladino Vaughn discussed Google for Non-Profits that has been set up. It is not set up to use as an everyday email for correspondence, but a place to store documents because of the advantage of the large storage capacity.

**Outreach** – Betsy McGuire, Chair

Ms. Paladino Vaughn gave the Outreach report in place of Ms. McGuire. The Downtown Artwalk is coming up on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign-up sheet for those wanting to volunteer. We are working on the location, with a possibility to be at Mullins Teams Sports. The Russellville Kiwanis presentation will be held on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Juneteenth events will be held on Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Mr. Tai Swicegood was a guest presenter with River Valley Town Square which creates local content and interviews residents. He recently interviewed Mr. Hendrix about the Latimore Tourist Home. Mr. Swicegood does web design and documentation such as a digital museum. Mr. Hiegel suggested the digital museum idea would be good with capturing items of the home that might not be the same when the home is completed. There is also writing on the wall that is valuable and may not be seen afterwards, but an archive photo and or digital documentation capturing that would certainly be beneficial. The services would be donated. Mr. Swicegood was thanked for his time and for the valuable information that he shared. He and Mr. Hiegel will be in touch.

**Announcements:**

- Committee Meetings – Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
- Downtown Art Walk – Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, Downtown Russellville
- Board of Directors Meeting – Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m., First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
- Juneteenth Event– Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Downtown Russellville

**Adjournment** – Ms. Julie Paladino Vaughn adjourned the meeting.