

Board of Directors Meeting Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home, Inc.

**August 8, 2022
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, August 8, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. President Randy Hendrix called the meeting to order.

Board Members present:

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

Also in Attendance:

Madria Bagby
Bill Braxton
Erma Booth
Omar Clemons
Mary Cohoon
Ellen Collins
Chris George
Debi Headley
Irma Jackson
Sara Jondahl
Victoria Marchant
Beverly Massey
Charity Park
Kim Parker
Lorenzo Walton

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

Roll Call – Secretary Julie Paladino Vaughn announced roll call. Mr. Marshall Morris was absent.

Finding of Quorum – Mr. Hendrix found a quorum.

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Hendrix made the announcement for the approval of the minutes from July 12, 2022. Ms. Betsy McGuire moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Suzanne Alford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Special Business: Mr. Omar Clemons with Entergy presented a check to the Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home in the amount of \$5,000.00. Also in attendance to present a check in the amount of \$10,000.00 were Beverly Massey, Bill Braxton, Kim Parker, Madria Bagby with Universal Housing Authority and Universal Housing Authority Board Member Chris Goerge.

Financial Report – Treasurer Margaret Bagby

Ms. Margaret Bagby announced the current balance to be at \$91,177.38. Please find the bank statement ending in July attached to these minutes.

City Planner Report – Sara Jondahl

No report.

Sub Committee Reports:

Design/Planning – Bob Hiegel, Chair

Mr. Bob Hiegel stated the committee has been busy. The big thing to do is owning and getting the house on city property this year for grant purposes. Purchasing the Bowes property is in the works. The house has two owners. One owner has sold it to an investment group. We are working with the lawyers and realtors to get it purchased, hopefully by the end of the year. Moving the house down the street is the most critical thing to do this year on to property controlled or owned by the city. Their permanent place where the house will sit will be the Bowes property and the Bridge Church property. There are two ways to get it on city owned property. One way is to purchase additional land, a corner piece that is adjacent to the Bridge Church, to place the house on temporary which can be used later as a community garden. The Bridge Church has offered to sale the land. The other way is closing down the street but that is not well received for a long-term plan. Mr. Hiegel stated a Master Plan is being developed to present to the city. As a reminder, the park was originally purchased by the city through a land grant which the land can only be used as recreational purposes. If it is not used in that matter, a land swap would have to be established. Mr. Bennett stated that for \$20,000.00, with \$2,000.00 for closing costs, the additional land can be purchased, and would like to make a motion to move forward with purchasing the land. Mr. Hiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried. Please find a complete report of the Design and Planning Committee attached to these minutes.

Fundraising – Suzanne Alford, Chair

Ms. Suzanne Alford stated a musician, John Cotton, has offered to play music during a future fundraising event for the Latimore Tourist Home. The art and antique auction is continuing to be worked on for a future event. The Pope County Historical Society is also trying to meet again. Please find a complete report of the Fundraising Committee attached to these minutes. Mr. Bennett thanked Entergy and the Universal Housing Authority again for their donations. He also added that this is an expensive project. We are going to be doing this for several years. Everyone's contributions going forward, physically and monetarily, is going to be needed with money being spent, and with money being raised.

Operation – Julie Paladino Vaughn, Chair

Ms. Julie Paladino Vaughn stated this evening from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm there is a Preview Party at the River Valley Business Expo for Board members to attend. Tomorrow, the Expo will be open to the public from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Ms. McGuire and Ms. Paladino Vaughn set up the Latimore Tourist Home Booth earlier in the morning, and it looks great. The booth space was donated by EAB Radio. The Russellville Downtown Fall Fest is scheduled for October 29th, to reserve a booth it is \$75.00. Ms. Sara Jondahl volunteered to pay for the booth. Everyone was very appreciative for her donation.

Outreach – Betsy McGuire, Chair

Ms. McGuire stated that the Downtown Art Walk will be Friday, September 2nd. We will be looking for volunteers for the event. It is a great way to connect and reach out to people who may not know about the Latimore Tourist Home.

Mr. Hendrix stated that the people who help, it means a lot to us. We want people to understand this is not only for us, but also for our city, community, and state. It is humbly to know people have our backs. Ms. McGuire added there are a lot of moving pieces to this project, and people who help us do wonderful things. The Housing Authority, Entergy, Recreation and Parks Director Mr. Terry Thomas, City Planner Ms. Jondahl, Ms. Victoria Marchant, Ms. Charity Park, Ms. Ellen Anne Collins, Ms. Debi Headley, and many more, we could not do it without their support.

Old Business:

Ms. Alford stated in reference to past discussions with enlarging the Board, it might be good to have an Advisory Board. We already have ex-officio members but developing this type of Board with representatives from Arkansas Tech University, the High School or other entity might be good and from there they could then move onto the Latimore Tourist Home Board if they chose to do so.

New Business:

Announcements:

Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, September 13th at 12:00 p.m., First Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

Adjournment – President Randy Hendrix