

# **Board of Directors Meeting**

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

**November 14, 2023**

### **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 November 14, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. President Randy Hendrix called the meeting to order.

Board Members present:

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

Also in Attendance:

Sabrina Billey	Array Gilkey
Shyrice Stewart Black	Debi Headley
Mary Cohoon	Herald Leapheart
Ellen Collins	Victoria Marchant
Toi Drummer	Charity Park

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

**Roll Call** – Board Secretary, Ms. Julie Paladino Vaughn announced roll call. Ms. Margaret Bagby and Mr. Marshall Morris were absent.

**Finding of Quorum** – Mr. Hendrix found a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes** – Ms. Betsy McGuire noted that in the Fundraising paragraph of the October Board minutes, River Materials needed to be corrected to say Big River Materials. Ms. McGuire made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bob Hiegel seconded the minutes. Motion carried.

**Financial Report** – Treasurer Margaret Bagby

Ms. Suzanne Alford sat in for Ms. Bagby and provided the Finance Report. She stated the current balance to be at \$48,621.66. A copy of the Arvest bank statement ending in October is attached to these minutes.

**City Planner Report** – Sara Jondahl

No report.

## **Sub Committee Reports:**

### **Design/Planning** – Bob Hiegel, Chair

Mr. Hiegel reported that Phase 1 has been completed. The foundation has been tied down and the back door stairs have been repaired. The temporary fence has been removed, and the City Recreation and Parks Department has placed a temporary fence up around the house for safety. A bill has been received from Ford Engineering for \$1,964.00. Phase 2 expenditures associated with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) FY24 grant of a combined amount of \$102,000.00 are dependent upon completion of the Conservation Easement. It is necessary that we get that in and approved before the grant funding is allowed to be used. We have been working on this for a while, but it was sent out yesterday November 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bennett and Mr. Hiegel have been working with Mr. Kendal Hern to perform the rehabilitation of one window. Mr. Trey Smith, Russellville City Attorney, is working on eminent domain for lots 9 and 10 of the Bowes property. He has found a party in South Dakota that may have an interest in the property. A budget of \$26,000.00 is dedicated to this action. Mr. Smith noted that this land is somewhat incumbered by complex transactions. We are trying to get property insurance. It is very difficult to get insurance on an unoccupied 100-year-old building. Please find a copy of the minutes of the Design/Planning Committee meeting for October attached to these minutes.

### **Fundraising** – Suzanne Alford, Chair

Ms. Suzanne Alford stated a cover letter, and a Latimore packet were sent to Kirstie Sims, Senior Director of Racial Equity at Walmart in Bentonville. There has been no response yet. Ms. Jane Pittman reported that committee members met with Dr. George Stone, and his wife Helen, about possible funding opportunities. Dr. Stone later approached members of the Rockefeller Foundation who at this time were not interested in funding. Ms. Pittman also reported that February 26<sup>th</sup> is locked down to do a fundraiser at Stoby's in Russellville. The event would fall under the Black History month. Ms. Pittman also discussed Mr. Arnold Washington out of Little Rock, and his accomplishments with his business, the first black owned bank in Arkansas, People Trust Community Federal Credit Union. Ms. Alford reported that Ms. Pittman delivered packets to all the local dealerships. Mr. David Rogers, owner of Orr Motors Mall, generously donated and encouraged other dealerships to donate. Ms. Array Gilkey handed in donations that she had collected. Everyone was very appreciative of her efforts. Please find a copy of the minutes for the October Fundraising Committee meeting attached to these minutes.

### **Operation** – Julie Paladino Vaughn, Chair

Ms. Paladino Vaughn updated members that during October's Board meeting we had discussed adding more to the Board of Directors, but we are going to look into that a little more next month for December to see if we want to go that route. We currently have our nine Board Members. Ms. Charity Park stated the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that she is asking the Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home to sign is between five parties. This is an agreement that for future events, each party will agree to do their part and share information. Ms. McGuire made a motion to enter into the MOU agreement. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried. Please find a copy of the MOU attached to these minutes. Ms. Park discussed Google for Non-Profits. It is a free place to share ideas and documents. To have a YouTube Channel, we would need to have a Google for Non-Profits. The committee decided to look into Google for Non-Profits. Please find information on Google for Non-Profits attached to these minutes.

**Outreach** – Betsy McGuire, Chair

Ms. McGuire reported that the committee had discussed doing an event during the Eclipse in April, but it was decided to focus on other main events that we have on the upcoming calendar. A main factor that the committee looked at was if there would be enough manpower to host an event during that time. It was in full agreement that a Latimore Tourist Home banner would be good to have on the home during the time of the Eclipse in April. Ms. McGuire also discussed scheduling a meeting with members and with Mr. Daniel Shoptaw to go over tracking expenses. We are selling Latimore Tourist Home ornaments for \$10.00 each. The Chamber Annual Meeting is coming up, and it was decided to reserve a table to represent the Latimore Tourist Home organization. Ms. Alford is looking for a location for the December Art Walk that would be covered. Please find a copy of the Outreach Committee meeting minutes attached to these minutes.

**Old Business:****New Business:**

Mr. Bennett created the latest budget for 2023-2024. Mr. Hiegel previously mentioned that until we can spend the AHPP money, which is \$102,000.00 collaborative between us and them, we have to get a signed easement. Please find a copy of the latest budget attached to these minutes.

**Announcements:**

- Committee Meetings - Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
- Board of Directors Meeting – Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m., First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
- Downtown Holiday Glow – Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting– Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, Russellville Cyclone Arena – Doors open at 11:15 a.m., buffet will be open from 11:30 a.m. to noon. Program begins at noon. RSVP to the Chamber by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$50.00 a person.

**Adjournment** – Mr. Hendrix.