

Board of Directors Meeting

Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home, Inc.

January 14, 2025
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 January 14, 2025, 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
Jane Pittman
Julie Paladino Vaughn

Also in Attendance:

Steve Bennett
Ellen Collins
Mary Cohoon
Carolyne Creel
Deborah DeJohnette
Toi Drummer
Array Gilkey
Sara Jondahl
Charity Park
Deb Wilson

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

Roll Call – Board Secretary, Ms. Julie Paladino Vaughn announced roll call.

Finding of Quorum – Mr. Hendrix found a quorum.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Paladino Vaughn mentioned a critique to the minutes. She stated she needed to add to the Fundraising and Outreach paragraphs that the committee meeting report is attached to these minutes. Ms. Suzanne Alford made a motion to approve the December 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 is at \$1,490.51, while the money market balance is at \$57,817.12. The total of the two accounts combined is \$59,307.63. A copy of the Arvest Bank statements ending in December and a copy of

the Finance Report are attached to these minutes. Ms. Betsy McGuire made a motion to approve the Finance Report as presented. Mr. Hiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

City Planner Report – Sara Jondahl

The Office of Planning and Development with the City of Russellville has partnered with Arkansas Tech University with a class to understand the historical context of the Latimore Tourist home. On February 26th or on February 28th, students will tour the home at 10:00 a.m. The date is being determined. They also may ask questions of those that live in the James School Park area.

Sub Committee Reports:

Design/Planning – Bob Hiegel, Chair

Mr. Bob Hiegel stated that Mr. Kendal Hern is finishing up the windows and should be completed in early 2025. The porch spindle money was discussed to perhaps wait a little longer before that is used in case we get more grant money to use on the specific work. There is still discussion with Mr. John Peel about getting Ms. Lashawna Bowes paid. The process just takes time. Please find a copy of the Design Committee report for January attached to these minutes.

Fundraising – Suzanne Alford, Chair

Ms. Alford discussed potential donors to reach out to, such as Con Agra. She and Ms. Jane Pittman are getting things in order from after the start of the new year. Ms. Pittman stated that tickets are being passed out to sell for Stoby's Pancake Breakfast. There is a sign-up sheet for those that want to sign-up to help volunteer during the Pancake Breakfast on February 28th. Ms. McGuire mentioned we need to make sure we have enough volunteers. Last year we had a group of Arkansas Tech University students who were very helpful and contributed substantially.

Operation – Julie Paladino Vaughn, Chair

Ms. Paladino Vaughn stated the Chamber of Commerce membership renewal of \$250.00 is coming up. The Chamber of Commerce has numerous events that we take part in which help build relationships and strengthen our presence. Also, the City Council has started a new term, and Mr. Nathan George is still our liaison.

Outreach – Betsy McGuire, Chair

Ms. McGuire discussed that during the committee meeting the week before, members had a great brainstorming session. The 2025 event schedule was discussed, along with possible new ideas to try for the year. Ms. McGuire discussed her experience with Mr. Bruce Westerman's Office and connecting with them but also looking at connecting with other political offices in the state. Ms. Alford suggested we ask to present during a Pope County Quorum Court meeting. Ms. McGuire stated she hopes the Juneteenth event will be back at James School Park to help expose the house to more people. Mr. Hendrix has already spoken to the entertainment. He questioned if the porch on the home would be big enough for the band. Ms. McGuire would really like to see that happen and get that exposure. Mr. Hendrix added that we need to reach people and get them to understand the importance of the home. Ms. Alford stated that we had a book called Juneteenth, A Children's Story, donated by committee volunteer Ms. Deb Wilson. Ms. Wilson was able to get it signed by the author Ms. Opal Lee. Ms. Paladino Vaughn suggested we have a picnic in James School Park on April 23rd which is National Picnic Day. That would be a day we could get some exposure to home. Ms. McGuire suggested we could have tours of the home that day as well. The Ice Cream Social was

discussed that is held in May. This would be the fourth year partnering with the City of Russellville Historic District Commission/Planning Department. Another event discussed was the Russellville Memory Project that Ms. Charity Park helps organize with other partners. The digital side could still be done but having a round table discussion might be something we look at doing for this year. Ms. Jana Hall is working on updating our website. Ms. McGuire mentioned that during the snow and winter weather we had, the home is more vulnerable, but we are fortunate that Mr. Hendrix can keep a close eye on it and routinely. Please find a copy of the committee meeting report attached to these minutes.

Old Business:

New Business:

Ms. Toi Drummer reminded members to please sign in and write your phone number down. Ms. Paladino Vaughn is updating the phone list, and it is imperative that we get updated phone numbers. Ms. Bagby encouraged members to support the MLK event by the Progressive Men's Group on Saturday, January 18th at 11:00 a.m. at the Hughes Center.

Announcements:

- Year-In Review Meeting – Tuesday, January 14th following the regular Board Meeting
- Committee Meetings – Tuesday, February 4th, First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
- Board of Directors Meeting – Tuesday, February 11th at 12:00 p.m., First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
- Stoby's Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser – Sunday, February 23rd

Adjournment – Mr. Hendrix adjourned the meeting.