

Board of Directors Meeting
Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home, Inc.
January 10, 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, January 10, 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

Attendance Continued:

Nathan George
Array Gilkey
Luther Gilkey
Madelyn Ginsberg
Debi Headly
Irma Jackson
Sara Jondahl
Carol A. L.
Victoria Marchant
Carolyn McLellan
Margaret Motley
Charity Park
Garry Penman
Sarah Stephens
Hans Stiritz
Camille Talburt
Terry Thomas
Lorenzo Walton

Also in Attendance:

Cathy Baker
Kara Bowers
Mary Cohoon
Ellen Collins
Deborah DeJonette
Gretchen Douthit
Steve Drummer
Toi Drummer
Freddie Harris

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

Roll Call – 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 made a motion to approve the December 2022 Board minutes as presented. Ms. Jane Pittman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Treasurer Margaret Bagby

Mr. Steve Bennet provided the Finance report in place for Ms. Bagby. Mr. Bennett stated the current balance is at \$90,114.36 in the Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home account. However, we have \$34,000.00 approximate in appropriation with the City of Russellville, and another \$25,000 in an account with Eddy & Ward, P.A.

City Planner Report – Sara Jondahl

No report.

Sub Committee Reports:

Design/Planning – Bob Hiegel, Chair

Mr. Bob Hiegel provided the Design/Planning Committee report. Mr. Hiegel stated the committee has met a couple of times since the last Board Meeting. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program sent an email stating that we must keep the house in a neighborhood setting. The City Council has also approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Russellville and the Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home. It is our operating agreement so that we can begin minor repairs on the building. Please find the agreement attached to these minutes. An interim repair plan has also been approved by the Fire Marshall Richard Setian, Mayor Fred Teague and the Design/Planning members. We have also been looking at acquiring additional property near the home. That is still in the process of acquiring, with the help of the City Attorney, Mr. Trey Smith. In addition, members have been working with the Recreation and Parks Master Plan, and how the Latimore Tourist Home will affect the overall plan. Please find a copy of the Design and Planning Committee report attached to these minutes.

Fundraising – Suzanne Alford, Chair

Ms. Pittman stated she is putting together a Fundraising report. She will be going out to businesses and banks at the end of the month presenting the Fundraising report. Mr. Bennett will also be assisting her with the business visits. Mr. Bennett stated there are some handouts on the table. Please find those attached to these minutes. Ms. Alford added that the last December Downtown Art Walk we did an art show with a quilt to be auctioned off. Ms. McGuire added that the video provided by Mr. Hans Stiritz with Evening Films was mesmerizing to those that stopped by during the evening. Mr. Bennett stated that Ms. McGuire has put in a Letter of Intent for requesting a grant with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Mr. Bennett has also put one in with the National Trust of the African American Cultural Heritage Grant. Both of those we are waiting back to hear of acceptance or denial. Mr. Bennett also added that he is going to try and keep up with a calendar to help keep everything in order. Mr. Randy Hendrix stated the video by Mr. Stiritz will be played during lunch following the Board meeting and before the Year-End meeting.

Operation – Julie Paladino Vaughn, Chair

No report.

Outreach – Betsy McGuire, Chair

Ms. McGuire provided the Outreach Committee report. Ms. McGuire stated that Ms. Hope Adair with the Brainstorm Agency has provided a proposal for social media training. The total for the two and a half hour training would be \$420.00. We would need a Board approval for the training to move forward. Mr. Bennett made a motion to approve the \$420.00 for the social media training. Ms. Alford seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ms. McGuire added that there are multiple events for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The James School Park will have an event, the Hughes Center and New Prospect will have a march. Ms. McGuire stated that February is Black History Month. It was discussed to have Mr. Jay Jones, the grandson of Mr. Latimore to come and speak. Ms. McGuire has spoken with him on the project on numerous occasions via phone.

She has not had a chance yet to invite him to speak. During the January Outreach Committee meeting, Ms. Paladino Vaughn stated a quote from the movie *It Happened on Fifth Avenue*, Ms. McGuire shared the quote, “Any house is only what its occupants make it.” Ms. McGuire added to that with we are keepers of the house. Ms. McGuire shared another quote “What we keep, keeps us” by Jackie Shelton Green, a poet. All that ties in with what we are doing. Ms. McGuire added that places like the Latimore Tourist Home, the Train Depot, City Hall, and Potts Inn, they are evidence of what has happened, and what we can still do. Ms. Alford read a letter from Russellville High School student, Ms. Aileen Pineda who was recently accepted into Harvard. Ms. Pineda expressed how thankful she was to be able to be involved with the Latimore Tourist Home. Please find the letter attached to these minutes.

Old Business:

New Business: Ms. Mary Cohoon asked the Board if we need to look into trade marking the Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home logo. It was agreed her question was a very good point and would be looked at for further guidance.

Mr. Hiegel made a motion to approve all the Committee Reports, along with the Finance Report. Ms. McGuire seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Bennett reminded everyone that the City Council agenda prep is this evening, and he will be giving a quarterly report. Mr. Bennett provided a short briefing on the financial spending coming up. A project budget and report will be developed to start looking at Phase 2. Mr. Hiegel discussed the digital fingerprint by Mind Studio of the house that we have that was done earlier in the project process. Ms. McGuire reflected on how appreciative we are for Mind Studio’s work that they accomplished early in the project, and how helpful the outcome continues to be in the process. City Councilman Nathan George, Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home liaison, was in attendance. He asked about Phase 1 and Phase 2. Mr. Hendrix introduced Mr. Goerge to all those attending the meeting as the new Board liaison for the Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home.

Ms. Kathy Baker with the Board for Potts Inn located in Pottsville requested information on the Potts family workers who traveled with the family to Pottsville. She asked that if anyone knew of the descendants, to please reach out to her. Mr. Bennett suggested that Mr. Jerry Linton might have some information that could be useful. Ms. McGuire thanked everyone who has been involved with the process thus far. So many people have such unique skill sets that they can bring to this project. Mr. Hendrix added that it is all coming together. He thanked everyone for their contributions as well.

Announcements:

Committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, February 7th, with the regular Board Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 14th at 12:00 p.m., First Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

Adjournment – Mr. Hendrix