

Board of Directors Meeting
Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home, Inc.
September 13, 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, September 13, 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
Marshall Morris
Jane Pittman
Julie Paladino Vaughn

Mary Cohoon
Ellen Collins
Debbie DeJohnette
Connie Fontanot
Array Gilkey
Mayor Richard Harris
Debi Headley
Randy Horton
Irma Jackson
Sara Jondahl
Barb Martin
Charity Park
Aileen Pineda

Also in Attendance:

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

Roll Call – Secretary Julie Paladino Vaughn announced roll call. All Board Members were in attendance. Ms. Jane Pittman arrived shortly after roll call.

Finding of Quorum – Mr. Hendrix found a quorum.

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Hendrix made the announcement for the approval of the minutes from August 9, 2022. Ms. Betsy McGuire made a motion to approve the minutes with the suggested edits that were handed to Ms. Julie Paladino Vaughn. Mr. Steve Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Treasurer Margaret Bagby

Ms. Margaret Bagby announced the current balance to be at \$108,379.38. Please find the bank statement ending in August attached to these minutes. Ms. McGuire made a motion to approve as presented. Mr. Bob Hiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

City Planner Report – Sara Jondahl

No report.

Sub Committee Reports:

Design/Planning – Bob Hiegel, Chair

Mr. Hiegel stated the Planning Committee has been busy. Mr. Hiegel noted that we are temporarily stepping away from the Bowes property and moving forward with plan B which is to move the house temporarily on to the triangle property which a closing date to be purchase that property has been set. The moving date has been scheduled for the first week in October. Entergy, CenturyTel, and Suddenlink have been contacted for them to move their wires temporarily. A fence company has also been contacted for temporary fencing to go around the house. Two resolutions will go to the City Council for approval in reference to the purchase of the Latimore Tourist Home: (1) Transfer the new Bridge Church property to the City of Russellville, (2) Sale of the Latimore Tourist Home to the City of Russellville. See Phase 1A Calendar attached to these minutes. The Latimore Tourist Home and triangle land will go directly to the City of Russellville. Please find a complete report of the Design and Planning Committee attached to these minutes.

Fundraising – Suzanne Alford, Chair

Ms. Suzanne Alford stated that the art and antique auction will be pushed to the fall of 2023. This will provide more time for collecting items and for advertising. Ms. Jane Pittman stated that she spoke with the manager from Stoby's and received an application to possibly have a pancake breakfast fundraiser for next year. Mr. Bennett added we are very busy, and we need to start looking at replacing the money going out with donations and writing more grants. Ms. McGuire stated that we applied for the Union Pacific Foundation grant but did not receive it this time around. Fortunately, the local Chamber of Commerce did receive \$10,000.00 from that grant. Please find a complete report of the Fundraising Committee attached to these minutes.

Operation – Julie Paladino Vaughn, Chair

Ms. Julie Paladino Vaughn stated that the Board is working on a document of an Agreement of Services that would be between the Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home, Inc. and the City of Russellville. This is a working document. Main Street Russellville, the River Valley Boys and Girls Club, and the Russellville Regional Economic Development Alliance are three other entities that have Agreement of Services with the City of Russellville. Ms. McGuire added we want to formalize the relationship we have with the city as a 501c3. Fall Fest is coming up on Saturday, October 29th. A sign-up sheet is out on the table for anyone who would like to go ahead and sign-up to volunteer for the event. Ms. Paladino Vaughn also thanked Ms. Sara Jondahl for her donation of a Fall Fest Booth fee for the Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home.

Outreach – Betsy McGuire, Chair

Ms. McGuire stated that in regards to the Outreach calendar, we have a presentation to the Pope County Quorum Court on Thursday, October 6th. The two resolutions that need to be approved by the City of Russellville will be discussed during the Russellville City Council meeting on Thursday, September 15th. A celebratory event is in the works for after the move of the Latimore Tourist Home called "Thanks with Franks" which will be at the James School Park. The event is being planned for Saturday, October 8th. An Outreach Committee meeting is scheduled for September 22nd to really iron out all the details for the event. Ms. McGuire emphasized that the house being moved is a big deal. This will be our first big visible activity. Mr. Hendrix added the

City of Russellville is currently cleaning up the lot right now, and they are always thinking of ways to help us out. Ms. McGuire added that ultimately once this home is moved, restored, and opened to the public, we want it on the United States Civil Rights Trail. It is a story that needs to be told. If we do not have a place to hold all the historic information about the Latimore Tourist Home, it will get lost. Ms. Debbie Headley asked Board Members and guests that if they see work being performed in preparation of the move of the house, to send in pictures so that those moments could be shared on to social media outlets. Ms. McGuire stated that some donations were collected during the September Art Walk. Ms. Rita Goodman helped volunteers and the booth items stay dry from the rain by opening up her garage space downtown. Events like the Art Walk are important to be able to connect to people. Ms. McGuire added the partnership with the City of Russellville has been so incredibly important, and that has led us to the event on the week of October the 4th. Mayor Richard Harris was thanked for his role in that partnership.

Old Business: Ms. Suzanne Alford mentioned forming an Advisory Board to help draw in volunteers. It would be a way for those to get to know the history behind the Latimore Tourist Home and be ready at some point to come be an official Board Member if a position were to come available. Ms. McGuire added that we have been fortunate to always have a room of volunteers and attendance at our Board Meetings. She added that we have a fiduciary responsibility to work to our by-laws and the state laws, it is very important, and the responsibility that goes along with that.

New Business:

Mr. Bennett stated the latest 2022 budget as well as the project milestones handouts are on the table. This is an evolving project. Mr. Bennett opened it up for comments and asked for the approval of the budget and project milestones. Mr. Bennett asked if there was any discussion and asked for a motion to approve the two documents. Ms. Alford made a motion to approve the 2022 budget and project milestones. Mr. Hiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried. Please find a copy of the latest budget and project milestones attached to these minutes.

A review of the timeline of upcoming events were reviewed. It was encouraged to attend the September City Council meeting since the two resolutions that were discussed earlier would be on that agenda. Fall Fest will be a big event as far as reaching out to the community and downtown visitors. The archival event that was scheduled originally for the fall of this year, has been pushed to 2023. Mr. Hendrix mentioned a Music Festival at Pleasant View Park on Saturday, October 1st. Ms. Bagby asked if we could have a booth there, and Mr. Hendrix replied absolutely.

Mr. Bennett proposed that we have our committee meetings on October 11th, with the regular Board Meeting on October 18th since the moving of the house is going to fall on the first week of October. Ms. McGuire made a motion that we move our October committee meetings to October 11th and the regular scheduled monthly Board Meeting to October 18th. Motion carried.

Announcements:

Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, October 18th at 12:00 p.m., First Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

Adjournment – President Randy Hendrix