

Board of Directors Meeting

Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home, Inc.

July 9, 2024
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 July 9, 2024, 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
Jane Pittman
Julie Paladino Vaughn

Also in Attendance:

Mary Cohoon	Timsiam Morgan
Ellen Collins	Charity Park
Toi Drummer	Dexta Rodriguez
Array Gilkey	Jacian Weir
Sara Jondahl	

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

Roll Call – Board Secretary, Ms. Paladino Vaughn announced roll call. Mr. Marshall Morris was absent. Mr. Bob Hiegel was not present during the roll call but arrived shortly after.

Finding of Quorum – Mr. Hendrix found a quorum.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Betsy McGuire made a motion to accept the June Board minutes as presented. Ms. Jane Pittman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Treasurer Margaret Bagby

Ms. Margaret Bagby provided the Finance Report. She stated the current checking account balance at \$4,432.80 and the money market account balance at \$57,919.00. A copy of the Arvest Bank statements ending in June are attached to these minutes.

City Planner Report – Sara Jondahl

No report.

Sub Committee Reports:

Design/Planning – Bob Hiegel, Chair

Ms. McGuire gave the report for Mr. Hiegel. She stated a number of members were able to meet with representatives of the Arkansas Historic Restoration Program (AHRP). They discussed ADA access to the front door, as well as discussed window frames, paint colors, parking, and the existing floors. The stairwell landing safety was also discussed. Mr. Hendrix asked about handicapped access. The second floor may be used for mostly storage, the first floor will be for main public access. Mr. Hendrix added that people are seeing the home and making comments about how well the house is coming together.

Fundraising – Suzanne Alford, Chair

Ms. Suzanne Alford stated that she and Ms. Pittman are having on-going conversations with churches, civic clubs, and local businesses. Mr. Steve Bennett's updates with numbers are so valuable when discussing fundraising. Ms. Alford discussed how donors might be recognized. She explained the example of how donors are recognized at the Downtown Train Depot. Those new in the audience introduced themselves. Ms. Debbie Wilson from Texas introduced herself. She stated she saw the Latimore Tourist House and did not know what it was. However, at the Art Walk she saw the drawing of the home. She discussed how excited she is about the process and has asked her Arvest bank to donate to the Latimore Tourist Home. Ms. Wilson stated she is going to contact her Texas representatives to try to get some support of the house. She would like to be part of the Fundraising Committee. Ms. Alford discussed a fundraiser that the Episcopal church wants to host a movie night showing a PBS documentary. It is in the works. Also, it is time for a radio update with focusing on the "Open a Window on History" campaign. Ms. Wilson asked how many knew who Ms. Opal Lee is. She is a friend of hers and knows the painter who did her portrait that resides at the Smithsonian. She has asked him to help push for funding for the Latimore Tourist Home. Mr. Hendrix stated that his grandsons were in attendance from Wichita, Kansas. The two grandsons introduced themselves. Ms. McGuire wanted them to know how important their grandfather is and to the project. Everyone thanked them for being at the meeting. Mr. Hendrix stated how proud he is of them.

Operation – Julie Paladino Vaughn, Chair

Ms. Paladino Vaughn stated that on June 6th KARK News came to Russellville to do a segment on the Latimore Tourist Home. It was also shown on the NWA news outlet. Mr. Eric Reid emailed and wanted to volunteer his electrical experience. Ms. Array Gilkey might think that is the person who stopped at the booth during the last Art Walk. We are also waiting to have a confirmation date for September 26th to present for the noon Rotary. The noon Rotary holds meetings at the Fairfield Inn. There are other Rotary clubs such as the sunrise and sunset that meet during the month. The Business Expo is coming up on Thursday, August 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Arkansas Tech University Tucker Coliseum. The next Art Walk will be coming up in September.

Outreach – Betsy McGuire, Chair

Ms. McGuire discussed that in July the committee did not meet, but we do need to schedule a time to gather items to get out of the house to store. Ms. McGuire has prepared the quarterly report update for the City Council which is part of the Memorandum of Understanding that the Board holds with the City of Russellville. Please find a copy of the report attached to these minutes. We are going to ask for permission to apply and move forward with the next grant opportunity. Ms. McGuire thanked

all the volunteers for the time that they invest in helping out this cause, and how valuable that is in itself.

Old Business:

New Business:

Ms. Dexta Rodriguez gave a presentation on a social experiment project that she is conducting. She discussed where the original city pool was located near the Art Center. The WPA built the pool in 1936. There is no marker at the location. Ms. Rodriguez added the significance of segregation with the pool and the Latimore Tourist Home. Ms. Rodriguez asked how we make people care and transfer social identity, as well as how is the social identity connected to community identity. Mr. Hendrix discussed his experience as a child he had when he visited the pool. Ms. Rodriguez asked if the Friends of the Latimore Tourist Home Board wanted to be partners with her social experiment and do a visual tour. The timeframe would be from October to December. Ms. Alford expressed her concern with the time frame and with the fundraising opportunities that are being conducted. More discussion might need to take place, but it was discussed to just be a supporter of the project. Everyone thanked Ms. Rodriguez for her presentation.

Announcements:

- Committee Meetings – Tuesday, August 6th, First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
- Board of Directors Meeting – Tuesday, August 13th at 12:00 p.m., First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
- Business Expo – August 15th from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., ATU Tucker Coliseum
- Ms. Debi Headly discussed Selfie Day on August 13th and getting the Board and members to take a selfie on the day of the Board meeting.

Adjournment – Mr. Hendrix adjourned the meeting.