

HERITAGE PRESERVATION, INC.
Minutes of Meeting, 5-24-10

Those present: Hester Cope, Bob Torbert, Betty Champion, Iva McClure, Jerry Dowd, Mary Peck, Judy Tiffin, Lee Freeman, Vince Brewton, Bob Sneed, Jim Ingrum, Dick Jordan, Jimmy Neese, Ashley Winkle, Billy Warren

1. Billy Warren welcomed Bob Sneed and Jimmy Neese and invited them to attend all meetings of HPI.
2. Jim Ingrum made the motion that the minutes of the 4-26-10 meeting be approved. Judy Tiffin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Billy Warren presented this financial report:

a. Checking Account Balance	\$2,851.73
b. Forks of Cypress Account Balance	\$3,234.78
c. FDR Fund Balance	\$5,000.00
d. Bailey Springs Project Balance	\$1,475.40

Vince Brewton made the motion that the report be accepted. Ashley Winkle seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Billy Warren distributed copies of the list of personages, along with the names of the actors who portrayed them, interred in the Florence City Cemetery who were highlighted during the rescheduled Cemetery Stroll on Saturday, May 15. He reported that 57 people paid \$5.00 each to attend the Stroll, while 6-8 children were admitted free. All agreed that this number was acceptable since much momentum is lost when an event has to be rescheduled.

There were eight (8) personages portrayed by local actors, requiring those attending the Stroll approximately 1.75 hours to complete the tour. It was suggested that, based on our experiences with the Stroll, eight personages might be the appropriate number to portray in a given Stroll.

Billy thanked Bob Torbert who arranged for a porta-john to be provided free of charge. Billy reported that he has written a thank-you note to the proprietor of the firm that provided it.

Billy thanked everyone who assisted with the Stroll:

- Lee Freeman – researching and writing all of the biographies of the highlighted personages and serving as a group guide
- Mary Peck – ticket seller/taker
- Bob Torbert – arranging for the porta-john and serving as a group guide
- Hester Cope – providing a card table and serving as a group guide
- Ashley Winkle – serving as a group guide

- Brett Wood – providing a canopy and two folding tables and serving as the traffic director
5. It was noted that Melanie Betz, a staff member at the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC), has suggested to Charlotte Dean that the AHC might present an award to Suzan Smithson in recognition of her work toward the restoration of the Sweetwater Mansion. Vince Brewton made the motion that Billy Warren write a letter to Ms. Betz on behalf of the HPI Board encouraging the AHC to move forward with the award. Lee Freeman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
 6. Billy Warren stated that, until 2009, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization had not been required to make an annual return to the IRS unless the organization had a yearly income of \$25,000 or more. Recently, an article appeared in the *Times-Daily* on Sunday, May 16, stating that all such organizations, regardless of the annual income, must file form N-990 on or before Monday, May 17. Billy contacted a local CPA office and learned how to file the form on line. His assistant, Marcia Austin, followed the CPA's directions and filed the form. Had this filing not taken place by May 17, HPI could no longer have said to the public that contributions to it are tax-deductible. But it has now been done and will be done annually.
 7. Billy Warren distributed copies of a letter from Representative Parker Griffith dated April 26, 2010, in which Mr. Griffith pledged full consideration of HR 3715, Community Restoration and Revitalization Act of 2009, if this proposed legislation comes before the full House of Representatives.
 8. Billy Warren distributed copies of a brochure which lists the upcoming walking tours sponsored by the Florence-Lauderdale Tourism Bureau, all of which are scheduled at 10:00 a.m. on the following Saturdays:
 - a. May 29 – Walnut Street; Guide: Billy Warren
 - b. June 5 – Upper North Court Street; Guide: Billy Warren
 - c. June 12 – Florence City Cemetery; Guide: Harry Wallace
 - d. June 19 – Forks of Cypress; Guide: Harry Wallace
 - e. June 26 – Wood Avenue; Guides: Nancy Gonce and Lee Freeman
 9. Ashley Winkle made this report for Florence Main Street:
 - a. The outdoor dining area at Legends Restaurant is now open.
 - b. The Route of Art Gallery (upstairs in the former Stephano's Restaurant on Court Street) is almost finished with its renovation.
 - c. The New Experience dress shop building on Court Street has recently been leased and will house two businesses.
 - d. A stationers/gift shop will open for business in the former Wilson's Fabric Store building on Court Street.
 - e. The Urban Forestry Department of the City of Florence, under the direction of Paul Graham, has installed some blooming plants among the shrubs in some of the plantings on Court Street.

- f. The Florence Beautification Board has replaced the plants in the large *terra cotta* flower pots that are streetside in the downtown area. (Note: Billy Warren has sent a thank-you email to the Beautification Board for this grand project.)
- g. The downtown sidewalk ramps designed to assist disabled people (and parents/grandparents with baby strollers) in their attempts to use sidewalks safely are now being revamped to make them more attractive and more helpful.
- h. The renovation of Mobile Plaza is now well underway.
- i. The small parking lot adjacent to Cherry Tree Lane on North Court Street now has a new board fence and will soon have new plants, compliments of David Martin, owner of Rosie's Cantina.
- j. Invitations were recently mailed to prospective participants in the third annual W. C. Handy Music Festival Parade. Ashley asked for names of other individuals/groups who might be interested in being a part of this great parade.
- k. Benji Wilson and Todd Scarborough, partners in Cobblestone Real Estate, have built and sold an infill house on Prospect Street, are building (and have already sold) two houses on West Alabama Street, have done preliminary work to build two houses at the intersection of West Tuscaloosa and North Cedar Streets (with one of the two already sold). All of these houses are constructed to blend with the architecture in their respective neighborhoods.

10. Billy Warren thanked Ashley Winkle for her leadership as executive director of Florence Main Street and stated that her replacement will be announced soon by the Main Street Board of Directors.

11. Iva McClure reported a very successful Waterloo Heritage Days the weekend of May 15. Attendance was good, the weather was excellent, and the atmosphere was reminiscent of an old-fashioned homecoming.

Iva also reported that the fine, old Haygood Family home on Main Street in Waterloo is currently being restored by the family who inherited it.

Finally, Iva reported that Earl Evans, a local accountant, was given the Waterloo Heritage Award for his years of supporting the promotion of the town of Waterloo.

12. There was a rather lengthy discussion of the proposed Master Plan issued recently by UNA. All agreed that, overall, it is an excellent plan because it shows UNA expanding westward. There was general disagreement with the idea that three dormitories might be constructed where the tennis courts are currently located (at the intersection of Hermitage Drive and Walnut Street).

Knowing that the UNA Board of Trustees is scheduled to vote on the Master Plan in June, Betty Champion made the motion that Billy Warren write a letter in behalf of HPI to Dr. Bill Cale letting him know that there are two objections to the proposed location of the three dormitories:

- The buildings would be very out-of-scale in relation to the surrounding residential houses.

- Increased traffic on surrounding residential streets would be overwhelming.

Jim Ingram seconded the motion, and it passed with 11 aye votes. Vince Brewton abstained.

13. Bob Torbert reported that, as a result of his work at the recent Cemetery Stroll, he discovered two gravestones at the Florence City Cemetery that need to be reset. Jim Ingram made the motion that Bob be encouraged to proceed with this resetting. Ashley Winkle seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.