

HERITAGE PRESERVATION, INC.
Minutes of Meeting, 6-28-10

Those present: Brett Wood, Judy Tiffin, Ashley Winkle, Mary Peck, Carolyn Waterman, Betty Champion, Hester Cope, Jim Ingrum, Lee Freeman, Vince Brewton, Teryl Shields, Billy Warren, Dick Jordan

1. Billy Warren introduced Ms. Teryl Shields, the new Executive Director of Florence Main Street. She begins her official duties in that position on Thursday, July 1. Billy stated that Teryl has extensive experience in working with non-profit organizations in other states, along with her most recent employment at the Shoals Chamber of Commerce. There was a welcoming round of applause from all HPI members present.
2. Mary Peck noted that item #7 in the minutes of the 5-24-10 meeting should refer to Representative Parker Griffith as Dr. Parker Griffith. With that correction, Carolyn Waterman made the motion that the minutes be approved. Ashley Winkle seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Billy Warren presented the following financial report:

a. Checking Account Balance	\$2,882.94
b. Forks of Cypress Account Balance	\$3,234.78
c. FDR Account Balance	\$5,000.00
d. Bailey Springs Project Balance	\$1,487.40

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

4. Teryl Shields, as volunteer coordinator of First Fridays, stated that 82+ vendors, the largest number ever, are registered for Friday, July 2. Because Mobile Plaza is being renovated, the main stage will be on East Tombigbee Street between Court Street and the mid-block alleyway. More than 15 vendors will also be in that area because Court Street from Tennessee Street to Tuscaloosa Street will be completely covered in vendors.
5. Billy Warren distributed and reviewed copies of the letter which he wrote to Melanie Betz at the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC), per the HPI Board's direction, encouraging the AHC to proceed with an award to Suzan Smithson for the restoration work that she has done at the Sweetwater Mansion. Billy reported that he has not yet received a response to his letter.
6. Bob Torbert (*in absentia*) reported that he has reset the two gravestones at the Florence City Cemetery, a project which the HPI Board approved at the 5-24-10 meeting.
7. Billy Warren distributed and reviewed copies of the letter which he sent, per the HPI Board's direction, to Dr. William Cale, President of UNA, regarding HPI's concerns about the proposed student housing on Hermitage Drive where the varsity tennis courts are presently located.

Billy Warren distributed – and Dick Jordan reviewed – copies of a letter which Dick sent to Dr. Cale regarding the concerns that were voiced at the public meeting on June 7 about the student housing described in the previous paragraph. Dick further stated that he has also met with UNA officials to discuss the issues face-to-face.

Billy referred to an article in a recent issue of the *Times-Daily* in which Dr. Cale is quoted as saying that no construction will be started on the tennis courts site without conversations between UNA and the residents surrounding the site.

It was agreed that no further action will be taken at the moment by HPI but that we will continue to monitor the situation.

Finally, it was reiterated that, overall, UNA's Master Plan is excellent because it projects expansion primarily on the west side of the campus where unused property exists.

Billy Warren noted that a symbiotic relationship exists between UNA and the neighborhoods surrounding the campus. Because the neighborhoods are well-maintained, the aesthetics and the security of the campus are enhanced. Because the UNA campus is such a long-standing constant, the surrounding neighborhoods are anchored and maintain their value.

8. Iva McClure (*in absentia*) shared copies of a photograph of the small building (c. 1848) in Waterloo that once housed the clinic of Dr. Sullivan, a physician who lived next door to the building in a fine house that was destroyed by fire a few years ago. It is hoped that the building might be given to HPI by the owner; in turn, HPI would give the building to the town of Waterloo so it could be moved to the grounds of the Newman-Culver Museum. Lee Freeman made the motion that HPI accept the clinic building should the owner offer it. Brett Wood seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
9. Billy Warren distributed copies of a drawing of the Memorial Grove that is being established on the hillside where Florence Boulevard becomes East Tennessee Street. (The architect is Kevin Jangaard.) Carolyn Waterman explained that the development of the Grove is a project of the Tree Commission in conjunction with Paul Graham and the Urban Forestry Department. Some of the trees in the drawing have already been planted, courtesy of the Tree Commission. Billy Warren complimented Kevin Jangaard for maintaining existing historical features such as the stone retaining wall constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), one of the work projects of President Roosevelt's New Deal.
10. In a drawing for door prizes, both Teryl Shields and Judy Tiffin won vintage "ball point" pens that advertise First National Bank, which served local citizens for well over a century before it merged with SunTrust Bank several years ago.
11. Billy Warren distributed and reviewed copies of a multi-page document entitled "Redstone Rocket Warehouse History." It describes the Redstone Warehouse at Camp Westmoreland which was built from two carrier covers for the Redstone Missile Thrust Unit transport vehicles that were used for the Research and Development missiles at Redstone Arsenal prior to 1958.

12. Ashley Winkle made this report for Florence Main Street:
 - a. The renovation of Mobile Plaza should be completed by mid-August.
 - b. Pomodoro Restaurant on East Tuscaloosa Street has closed its doors to pedestrian traffic so its staff can focus on its catering business.

13. In behalf of Jessica Satkamp, who is opening a shop entitled "Save the Day" in the former Wilson's Fabric Store building, Ashley Winkle requested that HPI allocate \$200 to Ms. Satkamp for the repainting of the façade. Hester Cope made the motion that the \$200 request be granted. Carolyn Waterman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

It was noted that changes to the facades of commercial buildings in National Historic Districts, including change of paint color, must be done according to the local Guidelines for Restoration of Exteriors of Commercial Buildings which are on the National Register. Ashley and Ms. Satkamp will follow the procedures described in the Guidelines.

14. Dick Jordan reported that Handy's on the Plaza will take place during the upcoming W. C. Handy Music Festival, albeit in a modified version. The Plaza will be open from Seminary Street to the mid-block alleyway for diners and musicians. Waiters will be provided by Legends Restaurant; however, they will take food orders from the diners in behalf of Chicago Café, Rivertown Coffee Company and Legends Restaurant. Excellent!

15. Mary Peck reported that she was successful in purchasing at auction the house next door to her on East Tuscaloosa Street. Everyone rejoiced with Mary!

16. It was noted that reports are circulating that the contractor renovating Mobile Plaza has discovered tunnels underneath the street. Teryl Shields stated that the so-called tunnel is really a coal chute which connected to the former First National Bank building on the northeast corner of Court and Mobile Streets (now the Anco building).