

Sugar Hill Historic Preservation Society Meeting
Wednesday, August 21, 2019, 7:00 P.M.
City of Sugar Hill City Hall – History Room
Meeting Minutes

I. Approval of the Agenda

Chris Walker, Sugar Hill Historic Preservation Society (SHHPS) Chairman, convened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. He called for a motion to approve the agenda. Stephanie Isaacs, Board Member, made a motion to approve the agenda. Ryckie Fernandez, Board Member, seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

The following individuals were in attendance:

NAME

Kathryn Baskin

Secretary/Board Member

Joann Burel

Treasurer/Board Member

Ryan Butts

Guest Member

Amber Chambers

Guest Member

Ryckie Fernandez

Board Member

Bill Harting

Board Member

Stephanie Isaacs*

Board Member

Tom Lobonc

Guest Member

Margaret Neal*

Board Member

Chris Walker

Chairman/Board Member

*Indicates committee chair

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Walker asked for approval of the July 17, 2019, meeting minutes. Bill Harting, Board Member, and Joann Burel, Board Member, made a joint motion to approve the minutes and Stephanie Isaacs, Board Member, seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted without objection.

III. Treasurer's Report

Chairman Walker called on Joann Burel, SHHPS Treasurer, to give the Treasurer's report. She reported that there is a balance of \$8,072.47 as of August 21, 2019. Ms. Burel added that several invoices had been submitted and had been processed. Mr. Walker called for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Kathryn Baskin, Board Member, made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Bill Harting seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

IV. Committee Chair Reports

Chairman Walker announced that the next item on the agenda was for the committee chairs to report their progress thus far.

Museum Committee –Tiffany Hale Carter, Chair of the Museum Committee, was unable to attend the meeting. Chris Walker, Chairman, read a written report submitted to him by Ms. Carter and she reported that a meeting with Troy Besseche, Assistant City Manager of Sugar Hil, was still pending.

Research Committee –Following Mr. Walker's update from Ms. Carter on the Museum Committee, he called on Stephanie Isaacs, Chair of the Research Committee, to provide her report. Ms. Isaacs reported that the committee had met and it was a productive meeting. She commented that she expected that the committee would meet every few months.

She added that she would be updating the outline and the inventory spreadsheet. In addition, Ms. Isaacs stated that she would be meeting with Chairman Walker to document the artifacts he had for the museum.

Ms. Isaacs advised the members that Doris at the Buford-Sugar Hill library had contacted her to inform her that she had found a scrapbook of news articles on Sugar Hill. She said that she will be getting copies of the articles to add to the museum collection. Also, Ms. Isaacs announced that the Buford-Sugar Hill library would be celebrating its 30th anniversary in December 2019. She added that she and Councilman Hembree, Board Member, would be giving a tag team presentation on the history of Sugar Hill sometime in November 2019 but a specific date had not been determined.

Scholarship Committee – Next, Chairman Walker announced that Holli Stouffer, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, was unable to attend the meeting. He advised members that the scholarship had been awarded to Camryn Flores.

Digital Archives Committee – Chairman Walker proceeded by calling on Margaret Neal, Chairman of the Digital Archives Committee, to provide an update. Ms. Neal announced that Darrell Pruitt, Vice-Chairman and a member of the committee, had conducted an interview with Maron Buice. She told members that the next interview will be with Joann Burel, who was born in Sugar Hill.

Ms. Neal commented that board members would be receiving a city email address to use for SHHPS communication. She said that Ned Jasarevic, City of Sugar Hill, will be providing the information needed to set up the individual email accounts.

Next, Ms. Neal announced that the Community Scan Day had been rescheduled to November 9, 2019, so that it would be separate from Sugar Rush activities. She reported that she had contacted Elaine DeNiro at the Roswell Historical Society and discussed the details of their scan day activities. Ms. Neal noted that Ms. DeNiro had emphasized that it was critical and challenging to ensure the quality and accuracy of the metadata. She also informed members that Ms. DeNiro recommended that SHHPS make appointments for contributors to participate in the Sugar Hill Scan Day. In closing, Ms. Neal told members that a practice scan day will be scheduled on a Saturday well before November 9th.

Cemetery Committee – Next, Chairman Walker reported that several members had accompanied Ed Lanfear, Guest Member, in a search with a metal detector for missing markers and other items in the Sugar Hill Historic Cemetery. He called on Stephanie Isaacs to comment further on their findings. Ms. Isaacs reported that the group had found several plaques provided by funeral homes buried under the surface and they were able to confirm identities for some of the graves. She noted that believe they may have found the grave of James Byrd Dowdy. Ms. Isaacs said that they plan to do additional sweeps of the grounds in the future. Mr. Walker noted that they had found a 1930s dime but didn't know the true story regarding the dime. Next, Bill Harting reported that all veterans now have flag markers in flag holders at their grave sites.

Ms. Isaacs commented that she, Councilman Hembree, and Bill Harting were in the process of exchanging ideas and arranging for a "cemetery walking tour" on November 2, 2019. She noted that the event would not include character impersonations like those done by the Players Guild in the past. Ms. Isaacs said she had met with Councilman Hembree about logistics and that she would be working on a script for members to guide the tour. In addition, she was exploring how to market tickets and charge a nominal fee to raise funds for the restoration of the grave sites in the cemetery.

Budget Committee – Chairman Walker called on Kathryn Baskin, Secretary, to give a report for the budget committee. She announced that there was approximately \$4600 in unobligated funds for 2019. Members discussed the plans for a historic marker for the 1908 train wreck at Mangum's Crossing and the location for the placement of the marker. Chairman Walker noted that the marker would include a picture of the train wreck and would cost \$2,345.00. He called for a motion to approve the expenditure of \$2,345.00 for the historic marker, thereby reducing obligated funds by that amount. Ryckie Fernandez made a motion and it was seconded by Bill Harting. The motion passed without objection. After the vote, Mr. Walker asked for volunteers to draft the verbiage for the marker. Following a discussion, members agreed that the verbiage should be derived from the *North Gwinnett Voice* article written by Councilman Hembree.

V. Old Business

Chairman Walker reminded members that former Gwinnett County Commissioner Maron Buice would be honored with a celebration organized by Senator Renee Unterman. The ceremony, which will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, August 31, in a banquet room at Sugar Hill's E Center will dedicate the bridge located just beyond the intersection of State Highway 20 with Peachtree Industrial Boulevard as the Maron Sidney Buice Bridge.

Next, Mr. Walker reminded members that the historic marker for the Old City Hall is scheduled for October 5th at 10:00 a.m. He reminded members that the historic marker had been purchased in 2018.

In addition, members discussed activities related to Sugar Rush including determining shifts for members and volunteers to manage the Sluice Box. Everyone agreed that shifts could be assigned at the September SHHPS meeting. Members continued with a discussion about the Gwinnett Greater Days of Service and when work would occur on the Kile-Benson cemetery. Chairman Walker informed members that he would seek further clarification from Councilman Hembree on the activities associated with the Gwinnett Greater Days of Service.

VI. New Business

Chairman Walker asked if there was any new business. Ms. Baskin commented that she had several announcements to make regarding events for the Gwinnett Historical Society. She told members that tickets for a raffle of a special quilt commemorating the history of trains in Gwinnett County were available for purchase. Ms. Baskin said the drawing would be on December 16th in conjunction with the Christmas in Dacula event at the Winn House. In addition, she announced that the annual Winn Fair would only be one day this year and it would be held on October 5th.

Next, Ms. Baskin explained to members that the Folks Restaurant in Lawrenceville had donated all the Vanishing Gwinnett pictures that were framed and displayed in the restaurant to the Gwinnett Historical Society. She showed the members two photographs that were related to Sugar Hill: one of the Brogdon Station and one of the peach cannery. Ms. Baskin said she would like to give the pictures to SHHPS so that members can determine how they should be used since there already were copies in the collection. Ms. Isaacs stated that she would add the pictures to the inventory of the other items in the museum.

VII. Discussion/Questions

In closing, Mr. Walker asked if there was any further discussion. Amber Chambers, Guest Member, offered several comments regarding the scholarship process. Ms. Baskin commented that the scholarship committee has reviewed the process. Ms. Chambers asked if the scholarship was announced on social media. Chairman Walker and Ms. Baskin responded that the announcement was widely circulated through social media on various levels including the city Facebook page and web site, news outlets, telephone conversations with area school officials as well as other communications. In addition, Ms. Chambers made comments and suggestions related to the eligibility of the scholarship applicants. Ms. Baskin noted that Holli Stouffer, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, had ensured that the evaluation process was equitable and fair. Chairman Walker and members followed with a short discussion on how to attract more applicants. Ms. Neal commented that she would be interested in reading the essays to gain insight on the applicant's perspectives. Chairman Walker agreed to share the essays.

Chairman Walker asked if there were any further questions or discussion. There being no further business, Mr. Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.