

Sugar Hill Historic Preservation Society Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 7:00 P.M.
City of Sugar Hill City Hall – History Museum Room
Meeting Minutes

Approval of the Agenda

Darrell Pruitt, Sugar Hill Historic Preservation Society (SHHPS) Vice-Chairman, convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. He called for a motion to approve the agenda. Stephanie Isaacs, Board Member, made a motion to approve the agenda. Bill Harting, Board Member, seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

The following individuals were in attendance:

NAME	
Kathryn Baskin*	Chairman/Board Member
Joann Burel	Treasurer/Board Member
Chris Walker	2019 Chairman/Board Member
Ryan Butts	Guest Member
Bill Harting	Board Member
Kathy Harting	Guest Member
Tom Lobonc	Guest Member
Brandon Hembree	Board Member/City Liaison
Sherry Smith	Guest Member
Stephanie Isaacs*	Board Member
Kim Landers	Secretary/City Liaison
Margaret Neal*	Board Member
Darrell Pruitt	Vice Chairman/Board Member
Holli Stouffer*	Board Member

*Indicates committee chair

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chairman Pruitt called for a motion to approve the December 18, 2019, meeting minutes. Bill Harting made a motion to approve the minutes and Joann Burel seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Vice-Chairman Pruitt called on Joann Burel to give the Treasurer's report. Ms. Burel reported that there were no expenditures to date so the balance remaining was \$10,000.

Vice-Chairman Pruitt called for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Kathryn Baskin made the motion and Stephanie Isaacs seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report was approved without objection.

Election of New Officers

Vice-Chairman Pruitt announced that the next agenda item was election of new officers. He called for a motion to nominate a Chairman. Chris Walker made a motion to nominate Kathryn Baskin as chair. Brandon Hembree seconded the nomination and Ms. Baskin was elected unanimously. At this point, Mr. Pruitt turned the meeting over to Ms. Baskin.

Ms. Baskin proceeded in calling for a motion to nominate a Vice-Chairman. Brandon Hembree made a motion to nominate Stephanie Isaacs as Vice-Chair and Darrell Pruitt seconded the motion. Ms. Isaacs was elected unanimously.

Next, Ms. Baskin called for a motion to nominate a Treasurer. Brandon Hembree made a motion to nominate Joann Burel as Treasurer. Margaret Neal seconded the motion. Ms. Burel was elected unanimously.

Lastly, Ms. Baskin called for a motion to nominate a Secretary. Brandon Hembree made a motion to nominate Kim Landers for Secretary and Darrell Pruitt seconded the motion. Ms. Landers was elected unanimously.

Committee Chair Reports

Chairman Baskin thanked everyone for electing her as the new chairman and indicated that she had reviewed the mission statement and wanted to remind board members that it's important to revisit the mission statement periodically to stay true to the society's purpose. She stated that she's impressed with how accomplished and talented the members of the board are and that she looks forward to another great year. She thanked Brandon Hembree and Chris Walker for their leadership. Stephanie Isaacs thanked Kathryn for accepting the Chairman position.

Museum Committee –Stephanie Isaacs indicted that Tiffany Hale Carter sent an email stating that she could not attend the meeting, but that the City was currently holding interviews for the Request for Proposals (RFP) on the history museum. Stephanie Isaacs noted that she recently read over the bylaws approved January 5, 2015 and pointed out that SHHPS was in its fifth year.

Research Committee –Stephanie Isaacs, Chair of the Research Committee, reported that the documents/inventory has been updated. She indicated she's planning to hold another meeting with the Research Committee members soon.

Scholarship Committee – Holli Stouffer, Chair of the Scholarship Committee stated that she's very excited about this year and that she was going to reach out to the Scholarship Facebook Group. She stated that a lot of the work has already been done and that she plans to use some of the material from last year. She reminded the members that the committee had identified ways to improve the process to start promoting the SHHPS scholarship for 2020.

Digital Archives Committee –Margaret Neal, Chairman of the Digital Archives Committee reported that she, Kathryn Baskin, and Kim Landers planned to meet on January 28th to finalize the meta data to begin putting data into the Omeka program to publish on the website for public viewing.

Cemetery Committee – Brandon Hembree indicated that Sunday, January 19, 2020, would be a volunteer workday at the Sugar Hill Historic Cemetery for distributing the remaining pea gravel on family plots. He told members that the City will have a tent up and have water for the volunteers. Mr. Hembree reported that the City has also advertised for a part-time position to be dedicated to helping with the Sugar Hill Historic Cemetery.

Kathryn Baskin mentioned that Phyllis Davis who was born in Sugar Hill indicated that there were three trees near the "A" section of the Sugar Hill Historic Cemetery and that roots are beginning to raise the coping.

Stephanie Isaacs stated she had purchased special non-fading Sharpie pens to use on the aluminum markers that were placed on the unmarked graves in the Sugar Hill Historic Cemetery because the writing was starting to fade. She tried out the marker on stones and is seeing how it will hold up against the elements and going to reach out to the funeral homes and memorial companies for possible donation of stones to use for the unmarked graves. Kathryn Baskin stated that Phyllis Davis and another member of the Gwinnett Historical Society (GHS) told her that they used something to mark unknown graves in the old Lawrenceville Cemetery that was a disc. Ms. Baskin said that Ms. Davis thinks GHS still has some and she has asked for samples.

Budget Committee –Kathryn Baskin, Chair of the Budget Committee, stated she did not have any report to give but she would like to request each committee Chair to submit what their needs are for the year in an email to her. She added that this would be a good way to start with projections for the year.

Old Business

Kathryn Baskin reminded everyone about the walking tour from Katharine Alsobrook and the committee needs to do more to advertise this project to let people know it is available. She stated we need to be posting more on the public page. Chris Walker indicated he could advertise on this page and that they could possibly put a stand-up sign at the Customer Service Counter at City Hall. He also stated that he's had people ask him on the SHHPS public Facebook page on how to become more involved with SHHPS.

Kathryn Baskin stated that she's been working with the Sugar Hill Area Women's Club (SHAWC) on a newcomer's packet and that possibly the walking tour could be advertised by inserting information in the newcomers' packets. Brandon Hembree indicated that Kami Clements was the new Marketing and Communications Coordinator for the City and she's working on a city directory and guide.

Kathryn Baskin announced that Author and Historian Lisa M. Russell will be speaking at the Gwinnett Historical Society on January 27, 2020, at 6:30 pm. Darrell Pruitt stated that he's done some research on Lisa Russell and she's written books about Lost Towns of North Georgia, and Underwater Ghost Towns of North Georgia where towns were covered up by dams.

New Business

Kathryn Baskin indicated that she plans to meet soon with City staff on how the budget operates, as well as meet other staff such as Jane Whittington, City Clerk, Troy Besseche, Assistant City Manager and Tim Schick, Asset and Facilities Administrator.

Chris Walker stated that he plans to send a second request to Troy Besseche, Assistant City Manager about storage space needs.

Darrell Pruitt indicated that we have two new historical markers ("Train Wreck" and "Old School") that have arrived and dates of unveiling need to be scheduled for these markers.

Brandon Hembree stated that he was going to get with Troy Besseche and Tim Schick to advise on the placement of the Train Wreck Marker. He indicated that he's reached out to Tim Schick about the best placement for the Old School marker to be in the Cemetery. Stephanie Isaacs indicated

stones in the cemetery might be where the school was located but this is not the same location as used in the walking tour. She noted that there may be other families that may have more knowledge of where the actual school was located.

Kathryn Baskin reminded everyone to submit clarifications on the budget items needed for this year prior to the February meeting.

There being no further discussion, Kathryn Baskin adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.