

Sugar Hill Historic Preservation Society Meeting
Wednesday, July 15, 2020 7:00 P.M.
City of Sugar Hill City Hall
Meeting Minutes

Kathryn Baskin, Sugar Hill Historic Preservation Society Chairman, thanked everyone for coming and stated that she hoped all society members and their families have been doing well and staying healthy during this pandemic.

There are no guests present tonight for the meeting, and six members were present to pass motions.

Approval of the Agenda

Kathryn Baskin convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. She called for a motion to approve the agenda. Ryan Butts made a motion to approve the agenda. Brandon Hembree seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

The following members and guest were in attendance:

NAME	TITLE
Kathryn Baskin*	Chairman/Board Member
Ryan Butts	Board Member
Varessa Butts	Volunteer
Stephanie Isaacs*	Board Member
Bill Harting	Board Member
Kathy Harting	Volunteer
Brandon Hembree	Board Member/City Council, Post 1
Ryckie Fernandez	Board Member
Kim Landers	City Liaison

The following members were absent:

NAME	TITLE
Joann Burel	Board Member/Treasurer
Tiffany Hale Carter*	Board Member
Chris Walker	Board Members
Margaret Neal*	Board Members
Darrell Pruitt	Board Member/Vice Chairman

*Indicates committee chair

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kathryn Baskin indicated that the minutes from the May 20, 2020 meeting had not been approved due to COVID and having a quorum. Also in lieu of having a meeting in June, attending Board Members had a briefing of the Museum Design and took a tour of the new facility. Kim Landers prepared notes for members who could not attend. Kathryn Baskin called for a motion to approve the May 20, 2020 meeting minutes. Bill Harting made a motion to approve the minutes and Stephanie Isaacs seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously. Kathryn Baskin made a motion to approve the June 17, 2020 meeting notes. Stephanie Isaacs made a motion to approve the minutes and Ryckie Fernandez made the second. The meeting notes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Kathryn Baskin informed the members that Joann Burel was out of town and unable to be present. There have been no expenditures for the society this year, therefore no report for approval.

Committee Chair Reports

Museum Committee –Kathryn Baskin indicated that Tiffany Carter was unable to attend the meeting tonight. Kathryn Baskin stated that she is working closely with Troy Besseche, Assistant City Manager, and asked that he send updates to her and Tiffany Carter and/or come to the meeting to brief Board Members.

Kathryn Baskin asked if Board Members had a chance to go through the June notes and summary of the field trip. Kim Landers did an excellent job capturing the gist of the discussion and the preferences Board Member had for certain finishes and she asked if the Board Members had anything they would like to add, but there were no additional comments.

Kathryn Baskin also got information from Troy Besseche about a firm that has a prestigious list of museum clients. Their expertise is in developing the information, materials, and interactive technologies for museums. She obtained a flyer but plans on meeting with Troy Besseche to discuss in more detail. The museum construction is moving along. The Board Members that were present for the tour know this space is not very large. The Society is going to have to start considering the organization, arrangements, and what items are to be used for visitors to see to ensure they have a nice experience when visiting. Stephanie Isaacs's inventory list and comprehensive research outline will be helpful as Committee Members begin sorting through this. Stephanie Isaacs indicated she will forward the inventory list and research outline to the Board Members.

Kathryn Baskin stated the museum is such a special thing, the society is fortunate to be able to have it and for the city to be interested and funding it. Most society members are history buffs, each member has specific areas of concentration, but the society still needs to utilize professional help to make sure money and time is not wasted. Kathryn Baskin will work with Troy Besseche since he's the final decision maker to discuss these needs in more detail.

Research Committee –Stephanie Isaacs, Chair of the Research Committee, advised that the Research Committee will be piggy backing off the Museum Committee to zero in on topics and complete verbiage for the artifacts. The Committee will need collaboration with the Museum Committee on shelving, space available, and storage options. She had nothing further to report at the time of the meeting.

Scholarship Committee – Kathryn Baskin indicated she is not sure what to do about the Scholarship for this year due to COVID and the situation with the school system and reminded everyone we do not have a Committee Chair since Holli Stouffer moved. Holli Stouffer had a teaching background and recommended the best time to roll out the scholarship would be the Fall of 2020 and there is \$1,000.00 allocated in the budget for this. Ryckie Fernandez indicated that he feels that the scholarship needs to be offered this year because it is the society's second year of doing the scholarship and traction is needed so people will know about this in the future. Kathryn Baskin asked Ryckie Fernandez if he would like to be Chairman of this committee; he indicated he would be happy to do this. Kathryn stated Holli Stouffer left us in a good place; she put all the materials together and set up the committee with a good foundation to build on. Kathryn Baskin stated she appoints the Chairman and a vote was not needed, but she would like a vote to reaffirm the \$1,000.00 budget for the scholarship passed in 2019 to reaffirm for 2020. Ryckie Fernandez

made a motion to approve the \$1,000.00 scholarship. Brandon Hembree seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Digital Archives Committee – Margaret Neal could not be present. Kathryn Baskin indicated she and Margaret Neal have been working on looking back at grants for the Solar Boxes. The Solar Box allows users to hear a story by pressing appropriate buttons; they are possibly looking to place one outside of the cemetery. The Georgia Humanities Council gives grants up to \$2,000.00 and Margaret Neal has had several discussions with the lady that manages the program. She stated that based on what the society is wanting to do this would qualify for a grant. Kathryn Baskin asked Stephanie Isaacs to brief Tim Schick, City of Sugar Hill Facilities Director, on the plans for installing the interactive box at the cemetery to find out if there are any parameters (okay to install and what the possible location would be). Kathryn Baskin stated that when she and Margaret Neal toured the historic churches, they got to see these Solar Boxes and they are very interesting. Kathryn Baskin plans to get with Robyn Adams, HR and Executive Services Manager who works with the grants to discuss the possibility of applying for a grant. The next round of grants are not available until the Fall and according to the website details are not provided yet, but the society wants to be prepared. The society does not have the authority to apply for the grant; it must be applied for by the City. Kathryn Baskin indicated that she brought the Solar boxes to Troy Besseche's attention because he had mentioned an informational Kiosk at the Gold Mine Park. These boxes cost approximately \$2,500.00 and this probably would not be practical without a grant for this location.

Cemetery Committee – Brandon Hembree indicated there have been a couple of projects; Jack Wolfe finished the retaining wall restoration on two plots, and it looks fantastic. Brandon Hembree and Tim Schick installed pea gravel in one of the plots. Once it's cooler they will install pea gravel on the other plot. Chris Walker finished the repairs on the John Peppers marker and installed it that Sunday. Stephanie Isaacs indicated there has been more burial activity in the cemetery lately. She still wants to work more with the unknown grave markers and get with Ryan Butts on the template to use something that will last. She used the markers that were supposed to not fade but they have faded. She's going to do more research to see what else she can find. She's found a company that does small plaques that are made for outside and will try and get pricing. The Society has the holder; they just need that piece to go inside the marker. Varessa Butts stated that there is potential for these to be vandalized. Discussion was held on different suggestions. Kathryn Baskin stated Gwinnett Historical Society uses something for their unmarked graves and she will try to see what she can find out. Bill Harting indicated that if Stephanie Isaacs can get dimensions, he can check prices as well. Varessa Butts indicated that Lanier High School has a laser engraver, printers and so much more. Mike Reilly runs the CDAT program at the school. They can help with this and would probably appreciate it. Schools are looking for projects to do from start to finish, so presenting them with the problem, telling them what needs to be fixed, and then letting them take it from there would be very beneficial to them. Varessa Butts provided Mike Reilly's number to Stephanie Isaacs. Stephanie Isaacs said there are multiple issues: they are going to run out of holders: they have to make sure the mower doesn't mow them over: the sun fades them: and, it needs to stick to the metal. Ryan Butts said that you could pass all these problems over to the students and let them come up with a solution. Kathryn Baskin said we need to identify what the problems are and pass along to them. Kim suggested putting together a scope of what all the issues are and providing to the school.

Budget Committee – Kathryn Baskin stated there are a few budget items to discuss. At this point, the society is half way through the fiscal year, there are some things that can be done such as another Historic Marker for the Southern Red Oak placed on the Georgia Tree Council's Historic

Trees Register in 2019, but they are not sure if the company that does the markers is operating during COVID. Kathryn Baskin called for a motion to approve \$2,500.00 for another marker. Bill Harting made a motion to approve \$2,500.00 for an additional marker for the Historic Red Oak Tree. Ryan Butts seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Kathryn Baskin stated they have already discussed and reaffirmed the \$1,000.00 scholarship approval.

Kathryn Baskin stated that in 2019 it was approved to allocate \$1,200.00 for the pay dirt and another \$200.00 for the water pump for a total of \$1,400.00. There were storage issues last year with the pay dirt and some of it was damaged. In addition, with the situation with COVID there is a very high chance there will not be a Sugar Rush event this year. She's unsure of the lead time and/or even if they are operating, but at this time the society is not going to order the pay dirt or pump.

Brandon Hembree indicated they do need some D2 spray, it is expensive, and they are almost out. Great Days of Service will be coming up, Brandon Hembree does not want to use a whole lot of money unless it's needed. He would like to put in in the budget on an as needed basis. Kathryn Baskin called for a motion to approve \$1,650.00 for the purchase of 55 gallons of D2. Brandon Hembree made a motion to approve \$1,650.00 for the D2. Stephanie Isaacs seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Ryckie Fernandez stated he would like to make some recommendations for when things get back to normal. Our meetings are super informative, but very business oriented and the majority of what is discussed at our meeting. These things should be designated to 4-5 times per year, and be quicker and efficient. He would like to see more lectures and speakers come in. Kathryn Baskin agreed with Ryckie Fernandez and that her intentions were to have speakers come in every couple of months, or every quarter and after discussions come up with other ideas (field trips, or educational workshops). Kathryn Baskin stated she spoke with Dr. Gagnon with Gwinnett Technical College, he is the head of the History Department. Kathryn Baskin stated it would build more interest with the community to announce and have speakers come in.

Brandon Hembree said that he sent something to Terese Steinbach with the Daughters of the Revolution, more related to the museum but they have a desire to partner more on programing. The National DAR has traveling exhibits to local chapters and they want to help with that type of programing in the future. In addition to that, they have a docent service they provide. For example the city plans on funding a part-time position for the art gallery and for the museum, but Saturday volunteers would be needed. The docent program can provide volunteers for that. Terese Steinbach also indicated to Brandon Hembree that part of the DAR's process is they assist with genealogical research and they would be willing to provide materials and schedule times during the week to help with that.

Kathryn Baskin stated that SHHPS has grown and can now evolve into educating the community. Ryckie Fernandez stated with social media they can advertise lectures and etc. to get more information out to the citizens.

Brandon Hembree stated there are two (2) markers sitting at the maintenance barn for quite some time now. The 1908 train wreck marker and the Sugar Hill School marker, select Society members and city staff member Tim Schick have narrowed down these locations. Community resident Todd Walls, a woodworker (does movie set design by trade) is very talented. He wants to design and build the little free library and design it to look like the old school on the marker. The intent is to place the school marker and the little free library beside each other per suggestion of Tim Schick and have this installing occur in the fall. Tim Schick suggested the 1908 train wreck marker to be located on city property near the RaceTrac. All of markers will contribute to a walkable history tour through the central business district. The plan is to have the train marker installation and unveiling on August 23rd which is the anniversary of the train wreck. This will be good to get people out in the Community on the anniversary and would be a good opportunity for education as well. Brandon Hembree said this will be two upcoming events for the society. Varessa Butts mentioned having someone play the song related to the train wreck.

Kathryn Baskin stated that she hopes next month things will get back to normal and the society can meet under normal circumstances.

Brandon Hembree stated that Veteran's Day will be here soon, and the society needs to come up with something for this event. Kathryn Baskin stated that the Veterans Memorial is amazing. Varessa Butts stated that some Veterans will have been in their home by themselves for 10 months because of COVID. COX Communities has a program where an employee called a senior every day to check on them. Kathryn Baskin stated that a nursing home out West somewhere – set up a pen pal program and that you could choose who you want to send letter too. Varessa Butts stated the Bert Show does letters to Veterans on Thanksgiving and that a letter could be written and dropped off to City Hall and then distributed. Stephanie Isaacs said that the American Legion would also be a good source to coordinate with on this project.

Kathryn Baskin mentioned the Christmas wreaths. Brandon Hembree said that DAR posted this on their portal.

Brandon Hembree stated there would be an opportunity for people to purchase bricks, but the city is struggling with cost vs. quality of the bricks. They continue to research and have not landed on a good option yet.

Kathryn Baskin stated Chris Walker mentioned about having city icons placed around the city. There was a discussion about a duck and some other things. He brought that up recently again because the Arts Commission had contacted him. Kathryn Baskin said she would follow-up with Chris.

There being no further discussion, Mrs. Baskin called for an adjournment. Bill Harting made a motion to adjourn. Ryan Butts seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.