

**Sugar Hill Historic Preservation Society Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 7:00 P.M.**  
**City of Sugar Hill City Hall**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Approval of the Agenda**

Stephanie Isaacs, vice-chairman, convened the meeting at 7:00 PM and welcomed everyone. Stephanie indicated the Memorial Day celebration was a success. It included speakers, a concert, and Kathryn read the names on the bricks which were purchased to honor the veterans. There also was a wreath setting and memorials. The event was streamed online and convenient for those that could not attend.

Stephanie called for a motion to approve the agenda. Brandon Hembree made a motion to approve the agenda. Lindsay Davis seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

The following members, volunteers, and guests were in attendance:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
Joann Burel	Board Member/Treasurer
Tiffany Hale Carter*	Board Member
Lindsay Davis*	Board Member
Ryckie Fernandez	Board Member
Brandon Hembree	Board Member/City Council, Post 1
Stephanie Isaacs*	Board Member/Vice Chairman
Kim Landers	City Liaison/Secretary
Margaret Neal*	Board Member
Steve Samples	Volunteer

The following members were absent:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
Ryan Butts	Board Member
Bill Harting	Board Member
Chris Walker	Board Member
Kathryn Baskin*	Board Member/Chairman
Darrell Pruitt	Board Member

\*Indicates committee chair.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Stephanie called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 19, 2021. Ryckie Fernandez made a motion to approve the minutes. Margaret seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Stephanie called for a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Lindsay made a motion to approve with the amendment to correct the spelling in Reese's name. Brandon seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

**Buford Dam/Lake Lanier Exhibit**

Stephanie indicated the next Exhibit was going to be on Buford Dam/Lake Lanier. She compiled an inventory from Varessa's artifacts from Gwinnett Water Resources and Joann Burel's collection. It

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also includes what was in the museum along with copying pages from the book, Underwater Ghost Towns of Georgia by Lisa M. Russell, and the book of the Early History and Construction of Buford Dam by Robert David Coughlin. Kim indicated that she had spoken with David Coughlin, and he is willing to loan his documentary to play on the screen and willing to speak at the opening of the exhibit. He also will provide high quality pictures from his book. The opening date of this exhibit has not been determined. The Howerton exhibit's last day will be June 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the artifacts will need to be picked up by the family by Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Lindsay indicated there is a movie coming out about Lake Lanier sometime in the later part of 2021. The group discussed the small village of Oscarville which was predominately black owned in the early 1900s and became was flooded when Lake Lanier was first filled in 1959.

**Committee Chair Reports:**

**Budget Committee**

Stephanie indicated that Kathryn was absent, and that Joann had prepared the Treasurer's report as previously discussed. Budget items will be discussed next month. Kim indicated they will need to take up ordering the pump for the sluice box and pay dirt for Sugar Rush.

**Research Committee -**

Stephanie has been working in support of the Lake Lanier/Buford Dam exhibit along with supporting research in the cemetery. She is still working out details on the historical designation research for the cemetery and would like to form a team to assist with this. Joann indicated she would like to help with this.

**Museum Committee**

Tiffany indicated the upcoming exhibit would be Lake Lanier/Buford Dam and she plans to schedule a meeting next week June 22-23<sup>rd</sup> to pull things together. She indicated Kathryn had an idea to discuss myths, and this would hopefully be a good topic to bring people into the museum. Tiffany mentioned there is a YouTube video about Oscarville and myth of the lady of Lake Lanier, and myth busting would be something good to share. Kathryn also mentioned utilizing the TV with the current audio and video interviews where Lake Lanier and the Building of the Dam has been highlighted. Stephanie indicated the Callahan artifacts would also be worked into the exhibit.

Tiffany indicated this weekend was the Juneteenth Celebration and BASH and SHHPS were partnering together to promote the Museum as well. BASH will have a raffle to collect money for a scholarship. The \$10.00 raffle basket will include a signed jersey from Derrick Brown, Samsung Tablet, and a \$25.00 gift certificate to Central City Tavern. Tiffany presented the flyer on the celebration and on the raffle. The first 20 guests will receive an invitation to visit the museum. After they complete the visit, they will be given a pass to bring back to the BASH table to redeem the free raffle ticket. Tiffany indicated she spoke with Ansley, and someone should be working in the museum the early part of the day. She reached out to the Arts Commission but did not hear back. Brandon and Stephanie indicated they will be around to volunteer for the museum if it is not being staffed during the event.

**Scholarship Committee -**

Lindsay indicated the scholarship awarded has been delivered to Reese Robertson.

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**Digital Archives Committee –**

Margaret indicated that they are re-visiting the metadata requirements and working with Steve Samples and Chase to hopefully get the policies and procedures finalized so that digital archiving can begin but it is a process. The team met earlier in the day and will meet again on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Cemetery Committee –**

Brandon indicated that he did not have anything specific to report on. Stephanie indicated that the stone for the WWI veteran Trueman Williams was delivered from the VA and was placed at the grave and honored with a gun salute by the American Legion during the Memorial Day event. Markers for the unmarked grave are continuing to be made by the Lanier HS under direction of STEM teacher Mike Reilly. He has delivered 2 markers and is continuing to have more made. There are three lists that have been sent to him totaling 65 markers, and additional names are being researched and could possibly be added. As family burials are taking place, names are being collected for possible future audio/video interviews. Recent burials included Rosemary Jones in the Jones Lot and Elsie Powell Hood in the Powell lot. Elsie is the granddaughter of Margaret Powell, who died during the 1924 tornado. We have also been in contact with the great grandson of Margaret who has the stone that was missing from the cemetery. It was vandalized and broken into two pieces. SHHPS is in the process of retrieving this stone, Chris Walker and Brandon are going to help with getting it back together. Back areas of the cemetery need masonry work; rain has washed the area out. Brandon indicated that they also need to use up the rest of the pea gravel. Stephanie stated two additional stones have been applied for from the VA for graves which are either unmarked or from rusted funeral home markers. One is for a WWII veteran and one for a Vietnam veteran and Stephanie is working with Aaron Loring on a scout project to prepare these gravesites. Continuing to work on monuments being repaired and or leaning.

Lindsay indicated that the BETA and National Honors Society are always looking for Community Service hours and opportunities to serve. Lindsay can give the contacts to Stephanie. Stephanie indicated that it is hard to break ground in the cemetery unless it has rained.

Stephanie indicated names of babies who are buried in the cemetery without a known location are still be added to the list. This is also being done by Mike Reilly and the STEM program at Lanier HS. They do not know where all the babies are located, but the plaque will go in Section A, where it appears baby graves could be as indicated by ground radar. There are a few names of adults that cannot be placed in a definite location either. Mike Reilly and Lanier HS student could do standing plaques to give recognition for all these burials. All the materials from the STEM program are coming from the Sugar Hill business MTI which is a countertop type material and looks great.

**Old Business**

Stephanie indicated that Tiffany has already discussed Juneteenth event this weekend. There will be vendors, food trucks, entertainment, and the raffle tickets for the \$1,000.00 scholarship.

Stephanie reported the School House marker was unveiled on June 6<sup>th</sup>, and the event was very nice. Boy Scout Jeff Rothwell was honored, the bricks looked great, and it was a good project. Kathryn

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and Brandon spoke along with a former Sugar Hill elementary school principal, Scott Pryor, and Cereta Sudderth whose father was Gladstone, an important figure in Sugar Hill.

Stephanie reminded everyone that Sugar Rush would be a two-day event this year on October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, the sluice box needs a new pump, and the pay dirt will need to be ordered. SHHPs members need to be preparing for this event and volunteers will be needed for the two days. SHHPs plans to incorporate the museum participation with a table out front of the museum or along West Broad Street near the vendors.

**New Business**

Chris is resigned his position with the board effective June 15<sup>th</sup>. Chris has been a vital member of the SHHPS board and will be missed. Brandon indicated there are two vacant positions on the SHHPS board.

Brandon indicated that the American Legion facility is a very nice facility and they are vital partners with the city. He has a Proclamation to present to them on July 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at the new facility in Sugar Hill. They had previously been in Buford for 100 years.

Tiffany thought it would be nice if SHHPS provided visitors of the museum with a gift bag for the Juneteenth event. Stephanie indicated she could put something together.

Stephanie mentioned doing something for Chris such as a plaque to recognize his service. Chris was the reason Ryckie and Stephanie joined the SHHPS board.

Stephanie indicated that Nicole is ordering a sign for the museum.

There being no further business, Stephanie adjourned the meeting at 7:49 PM.