

Sugar Hill Historic Preservation Society Meeting
Wednesday, April 21, 2021 7:00 P.M.
City of Sugar Hill City Hall
Meeting Minutes

Approval of the Agenda

Kathryn Baskin convened the meeting at 7:04 PM and indicated she is glad to see everyone. She welcomed newly appointed Board Member Lindsay Davis and stated she is excited to have Lindsay and glad she has taken the lead on the Scholarship Committee. Kathryn called for a motion to approve the agenda. Stephanie Isaacs made a motion to approve the agenda. Brandon Hembree seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

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

NAME	TITLE
Kathryn Baskin*	Board Member/Chairman
Ryan Butts	Board Member
Lindsay Davis*	Board Member
Bill Harting	Board Member
Stephanie Isaacs*	Board Member/Vice Chairman
Kim Landers	City Liaison/Secretary
Margaret Neal*	Board Member
Brandon Hembree	Board Member/City Council, Post 1
Darrell Pruitt	Board Member
Varessa Butts	Volunteer
Sherry Smith	Volunteer

The following members were absent:

NAME	TITLE
Joann Burel	Board Member/Treasurer
Tiffany Hale Carter*	Board Member
Ryckie Fernandez	Board Member
Chris Walker	Board Member

*Indicates committee chair.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kathryn Baskin called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 20, 2021. Bill Harting made a motion to approve the minutes. Margaret Neal seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Joann Burel was unable to attend the meeting. Kathryn went over the Treasurer's Report and indicated the ending balance was \$8,274.19. Monies spent YTD are for museum expenses in addition to part of the \$1,000.00 the DAR donated for genealogical research. Ryan Butts made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Brandon Hembree seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

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Committee Chair Reports

Museum Committee

Tiffany Hale Carter was not present at the meeting. Kathryn indicated that Kim Landers has been communicating with the Howerton Family to collect artifacts for the next Museum Exhibit which will be a partnership between the Museum and Art Gallery to portray the life of Charlotte Howerton. Diane Kandler, Charlotte Howerton's daughter recently spoke at the Sugar Hill Area Women's Club and gave an excellent presentation on the life of her mother. The Museum/Gallery exhibit will be installed on May 12th and 13th and will come down June 24th and 25th. Kathryn and Kim have been organizing the artifacts, scanning items and will be looking for someone to photograph the physical objects. The Committee is also looking for ideas for future exhibits. Committee suggestions include highlighting moonshining and goldmining and having Brandon give a presentation, highlighting an exhibit on Native Americans that lived in the area, and highlighting Hispanic History month in September. Brandon told members that having an exhibit on the history of Lake Lanier, incorporating the cemeteries, engineering, and the book on Ghost Towns would be a good choice. Varessa Butts indicated Gwinnett County Water Resources has a lot of materials on Lake Lanier when the dam was built, as well as the Water park, she can loan this to the society for archiving and a possible exhibit. Kathryn indicated these are some suggestions and would like to begin planning for future exhibits. The DAR also has a few ideas on historic cemeteries for an exhibit. Brandon indicated they may need to collaborate with the Arts Commission if guest speakers will be involved. Kathryn indicated she would find out about AV equipment and needs for future speakers.

Kathryn indicated that Tiffany mentioned connecting the museum for the Juneteenth event. Kathryn will circle back with Tiffany on the final plans.

Budget Committee

Kathryn indicated getting the museum together has been challenging especially with the digital archives committee photographing and scanning items for the city's site and for the DLG site. With the Howerton exhibit the committee needs to invest in proper recording of those articles and the committee is looking into hiring a semi-pro photographer for this and timing and quality is of the essence to handle. Ryan indicated it needs to be someone with experience with photographing objects. Brandon indicated he knows a couple of people. Kathryn indicated that she would call for a vote probably though email once she knew the cost. Darrell made a motion to approve hiring someone for this task. Stephanie seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Scholarship Committee -

Lindsay Davis told members this was her first time going through this process with the Committee and indicated everyone is learning as they go. She wants to get a process in place to follow each year and what they have come up with so far is looking promising. Lindsay is excited to see the essays that have been submitted and the judging will be completed next week. Information has been sent out to ALL the schools in the area, as well as churches, and the City's marketing will be advertising through social media and in the gas bills in the future. They have 7 essays for this year which is more than double what was received in 2019. Lindsay thanked committee members that have agreed to participate in the judging and hopefully they will select a recipient soon. She

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thanked the committee on the feedback from the rubric. Varessa indicated they should shoot for 14 essays for next year.

Digital Archives Committee -

Kim Landers went over the current status of the digital archives. With the scholarship, and planning for the Howerton museum and the current photographing and scanning needs, entering the digital archives into the Omeka system has been postponed. Kathryn, Margaret and Kim have been working through the DLG metadata specifications required to forward data on to the Digital Library of Georgia which is extensive, detailed and tedious and will resume when time permits. The goal is to make sure the committee has these requirements down prior to training others to assist with the metadata uploads.

Kathryn went over the DLG subgrant program which is coming up and Kathryn and Kim attended a virtual meeting on this grant process. Additional information can be obtained on the website and Kathryn provided some information to the committee members. The city (Robyn Adams) will have to apply for the grant, but the committee will have to provide a narrative for this in the month of May and submit by the deadline in June. Samples/models are provided for who has been awarded in the past. The DLG made some suggestions about the committee video/audio interviews and seemed interested in the cannery and stated that a winning proposal would tell a story. Goldmining could also be incorporated. Brandon indicated that most people that receive the grant do a theme and he suggested it be about the community having its own identity and every story would be about the community. Kathryn indicated she needed a team for the grant application and indicated that the DLG has helped as well. There is also another grant from the GA Historical Records Advisory Council and SHHPS fits into this category and this is not due until June 30th. Kathryn presented guidelines for the members to look at. Kathryn called for volunteers to help with the grant.

Cemetery Committee -

Brandon indicated there are a couple of clean up days coming up May 15th 9-noon; this is open for everyone and it will be posted on the FB page. Stephanie indicated the focus will be on cleaning the headstones and will limit it to a certain section in the cemetery. They have been able to secure a water supply from the Veteran's Memorial and Distillery which has been helpful. The DAR reached out about a schedule cleaning at Island Ford Baptist Church on May 1st 9-noon, and several have volunteered for this. Stephanie indicated they think there are slaves buried there. Kathryn indicated that Phyllis Davis has 4 generations of family buried there. Brandon indicated that Memorial Day SHHPS normally places flags on the graves and at the round-about. Bill and Kathy Harting always help with this.

Veterans Bricks received double interest from Veteran's Day. City acquired a plaque to honor spouses of Veteran's, and this is expected to be a bigger turn out than last year. The Eagle Scout project with the bricks that was purchased by community members years ago at the Veteran's Memorial that was removed due to the development of the Broadstone project will be reinstalled at the Plaza Park along with the Old School Historical marker on April 25th. This project day is also open to anyone that would like to participate. SHHPS will also hold off on installing the Champion Tree Marker until the construction across the street is completed.

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Eagle Scout – Erin Lorin has had a project approved by the Eagle board for marker repairs and is in the early stages. Stephanie indicated they are identifying markers and looks like it will be a good project and they will also be repairing the coping that has fallen off as well.

Stephanie indicated that Mike Riley and with Varessa's help by way of contact with the STEM program will be making markers for the unmarked graves. MTI Inc. has engineered materials left over in 8 X 10 pieces that will be used by the students to etch the markers. This prototype has come through with flying colors, however they may want the etching a little deeper and add some color, but it has proven to be successful. There is 22+ more unmarked grave sites and the student will be getting started after Spring Break. Stephanie would like to make sure Mike and the students are recognized for this as well as MTI.

Stephanie stated that once the landscapers tidy up the cemetery the Friday before Memorial Day, then the committee can begin installing the holders for the flags and she will communicate with Bill and Kathy on this.

Research Committee –

Stephanie indicated that the research committee will assist as needed with exhibits and projects that require research.

Old Business

Kathryn asked if there was any old business. Being there was none, she then reported on New Business.

New Business

Kathryn thanked everyone that has been able to volunteer to staff the museum and asked that if anyone finds they have a couple of extra hours to please volunteer. Margaret indicated you cannot tell that the museum is open and that a sign is needed. Kathryn acknowledged that a sign was needed and has been told by city staff that a sign is coming and indicated that when the weather is good and volunteers prop the door open so that people see it is open. Darrell asked about the sign in sheet and Kathryn indicated it is a google document and she will resend the link to access. The Arts Commission, Church of the Latter Day Saints and DAR is also volunteering.

Brandon Hembree indicated that city staff Ansley and Megan are in the process of hiring a part-time person to staff the museum and that the hours are subject to change once this person is hired to meet the needs of the museum/art gallery.

Brandon indicated there is still one more board position available for the society and asked for recommendations.

No other discussion or questions were noted. Kathryn stated she appreciated everyone that came out tonight. There being no further business, Kathryn adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.