Cayce Historical Museum Commission Meeting* *ZOOM Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 4:00 pm

Minutes

Members Present: Archie Moore, Mary Sharpe, AG Dantzler, Marion Hutson, David Brinkman, and Alice Brooks Ex-Officio Member: Leo Redmond

Museum Staff: Jerry Kirkland, Curator; and Andy Thomas, Museum Office & Communications Associate

City of Cayce: Tracy Hegler, City Manager, Mendy Corder, Municipal Clerk

- Commission Vice Chairman Archie Moore called the meeting to order.
- Commissioner Dantzler offered the invocation.
- Vice Chairman Moore welcomed City of Cayce Manager Tracey Hegler and Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder and thanked them for their assistance in setting up this meeting.
 - o Moore announced that Chairman Dale Gaskins had tendered his resignation due to family matters, but still supports the Museum and hopes to return at some point.
 - o Election of Officers was scheduled for this meeting and the following officers were elected by acclamation: Chairman, Archie Moore; Vice Chairman, Mary Sharpe; and Secretary, Alice Brooks
- The February 3, 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved with minor corrections (moved and seconded by Commissioners Hutson and Sharpe, respectively.
- Chairman Archie Moore asked for a review of the candidates for three Board vacancies (who were introduced and present at the February meeting. Since that meeting, one candidate (Rev. Rusty Rabon) has withdrawn his application and former Director and current Ex-Officio member Leo Redmond submitted his. Each Commissioner was polled and the following three candidates will be submitted to City Council for approval: Pamela Sulton, Garrett Creasman, and Leo Redmond. City Manager Tracy Hegler confirmed that the next Council meeting is set for March 17, so this matter could be submitted then.

• Museum Staff Reports:

- O Jerry Kirkland and Andy Thomas once again expressed appreciation to the City for all the help the Museum has had during the past year. They reported that a lot of internal work has been done on the Museum's Public Safety Building. The flooring, particularly had presented a challenge, but with a lot of hard work, it is nearly ready to be clear-coated and will be a huge cost savings.
- Thomas referred handouts as they reported that the Museum remained responsive to visitors or public inquiries for historical or other City facts and information. Visitor attendance was up from January February, possibly due to the energetic social media efforts of posting Cayce Historical artifacts with information as well as the African American Committee's efforts during Black History Month. In keeping with the City's Covid protocol, masking and social distancing remains in effect.
- Thomas indicated that the Museum's African American committee has vacancies and staff has asked for submissions and hopes to fill these vacancies with the next month. The late Commissioner Corbitt's efforts on this committee as well as other Commission activities were once again acknowledged.

As reported in February and earlier in today's meeting, the building housing the firetruck is nearly repaired and the next step after this will be building the Public Safety exhibit in the building. Plans for a public event (if possible due to the ongoing pandemic) and media rollout will be discussed once the Commission Board is complete. "Big Red" is a very special and popular acquisition that has been years in restoration, with strong volunteer support, and needs to be promoted and celebrated.

• New Business:

- Thomas presented quotes for a projected need of signage discussed at the February meeting. The three quotes (for signs that would be displayed on the various buildings and exhibits on Museum grounds) were reasonable and comparable, but there were questions about where the funds would be obtained. At this time, the cost for the project would have to come out of non-recurring funds and Commissioners expressed hesitancy in using these funds at the present time due to the uncertainty of the pandemic's effect on the economy, noting that all City functions were experiencing budget restraints. Commissioners voted to postpone this expenditure until the next fiscal year when more information about the economy will hopefully be good. Motion made and seconded by Commissioners Hutson and Brooks, respectively.
- Thomas offered a PowerPoint presentation for expanding the Museum's reach by re-doing some of the rooms and displays over a period of several years. The Trading Post Room would be the first to undergo transformation in this proposal. This would necessitate moving many items currently in the room to other parts of the Museum. The room configuration would be re-done with an emphasis on the area's importance to the growth of the Midlands, the Revolutionary War, the significance of the Congaree River and the fact that Granby was the furthest inland trading post in the US. Items not currently being used (wooden boats gifted by the Charleston Museum and representing the type used in the Lowcountry) might be incorporated. The presentation was well-received, and although Commissioners agree that new audiences are important (particularly youth), and current residents and friends of the Museum need to maintain interest, more information and details need to be discussed. The general consensus was that it is difficult to imagine the room being reconfigured in a virtual meeting. Commissioners agreed to seek support from the City for future revitalization/expansion/modification efforts so that the City can build funding into the budget. The specific motion to endorse in principle the idea of modifying current exhibits or developing rotating/changing exhibits and authorizing the staff to work with the City to seek funding in the current upcoming budget was made by Vice Chairman Sharpe and seconded by Commissioner Brooks and passed unanimously.
- Although Commissioners elected officers in keeping with the calendar, standing committees discussed prepandemic: Purchasing, Advertising, Finance, and Personnel still need to be established.
- Chairman Moore feels we need an aggressive campaign to attract more Museum Docents as well as a training program. Hopefully the new slate of Commissioners, once confirmed by Council, will be able to help in this area.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned (moved and seconded by Commissioners Dantzler and Sharpe, respectively). The next meeting of the Museum Commission will be Wednesday, April 7, 2021, by Zoom, unless otherwise notified.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Brooks, Commissioner and Secretary