Cayce Historical Museum Complex Commission Meeting – April 6, 2016

Members present: Archie Moore, Judy Corbitt, Ann Diamond, AG Dantzler, Dale Gaskins, Mary Sharpe, Cyndy Peake, and Alice Brooks Executive Director: Leo Redmond

Absent: Marion Hutson (excused)

- Commission Chairman Archie Moore called the meeting to order.
- Commissioner Dantzler offered the invocation.
- Commissioners Dantzler and Gaskins moved and seconded, respectively, that minutes of the March, 2016 meeting be approved as submitted. Motion carried and Director Redmond may now forward the minutes to City Council if he hasn't already done so.
- Director's Report
  - Redmond reported that the improvements to the Museum, grounds and other exhibits are still on schedule, thanks to the generous allotment from the Hospitality Tax, and despite the unexpected additional expense of the failed HVAC system.
    - Redmond is keeping a detailed account of all expenditures and reviewed it with Commissioners. Approximately $2,700 remains of the original allocation.
    - The water damage incurred during the roof replacement was not serious and was easily remedied and survived the most recent onslaught of rain storms.
    - Redmond expressed his concern on the Fire Truck restoration projects. And difficulties on getting it moving again. Commissioner Gaskins offered to contact the Department of Corrections for a bid on this project. Redmond said he had the means to move the truck to DOC if the work is able to be accomplished there. Commissioners agreed that this seemed the most efficient and economical solution to this issue.
    - Exterior window sill repair/replacement remains but will be completed shortly if weather cooperates.
    - Interior painting of the Museum has not been done since its original opening and is badly needed. This will be addressed in the next budget request.
  - Redmond distributed copies of a March 24, 2016 ColumbiaVoice.org article on the Indigenous People's Prayer Circle (previously reported in Museum minutes) where our Director was blessed with the Native American name of Past Seeker. This is an honored tribute bestowed by the Native American community as a sign of respect and friendship. Commissioners are privileged that Redmond was chosen for this honor.
  - Commissioners also received copies of a letter written to the Mayor and City Manager by Jeffrey Cameron, educator at North Middle School. The letter not only praised the exhibits (especially the Native American installations), but commended the participation of Redmond and Rachel Steen with his 8th grade class. As an amateur archaeologist himself, Cameron called the Museum Complex a "hidden gem right here in the Midlands of South Carolina."

- Redmond ended his report on a sad note: the resignation of Assistant Director Rachel Steen, due to health complications. Redmond has discussed this with the City Manager and will be requesting a fulltime position rather than the 30-hour part-time position as it stands now. Commissioners all agreed that Rachel Steen has been a valuable asset to the Museum. Plans to fete her appropriately will be discussed at a future meeting, commensurate with her wellness.
- New Business
    - 25th Anniversary of the Cayce Historical Museum – Commission Chair Moore and Redmond reported some interest from outside parties regarding various contributions/projects. This milestone will be observed at an event in the fall. **We are also directed to:**
        - Continue gathering photographic and other items which could be mounted on display panels, depicting the Museum's work over the past quarter century, for the public and invited guests to enjoy. Historical artifacts will also be researched to be loaned, if necessary, for the occasion (personal family items of significance, etc.)
        - Continue submitting articles, anecdotes, letters, etc. for a possible book.
        - Decide on appropriate entertainment, including the excellent suggestions of the Harpists Guild which already meets at the Museum, and significant involvement of the Native American Community which has an important presence at the Museum and has been so supportive over the years and are, after all, descendants of the area's original residents.
        - Plan refreshments to include a large anniversary cake, punch/commemorative water bottles with Museum logo, hors d'oeuvres supplemented by Commissioners, etc.
        - Compile a list of special invitees: e.g., original Commissioners still in the area, City officials during the period, outstanding volunteers during the period (who will also be honored with commemorative coins and/or other awards of appreciation). The event will also be announced in the media and the public invited to attend.
        - Director Redmond will compile a listing of activities and events already scheduled during the late September-October period, keeping in mind such things as football games and other public festivals that would prevent maximum attention to our event. Commissioners will then try to finalize a suitable date for the 25th anniversary celebration and observance.
    - Christmas in Cayce, 2016
        - Commissioner Hutson is working on several ideas discussed at the March meeting.

- Commissioners agreed that a fall celebration of the Museum's 25th Anniversary will be a natural lead in to the 2016 Christmas Traditions event and the theme should be in conjunction with a Silver Anniversary.
- Special attention will be given to past volunteers who have been perhaps left out of recent events. Commissioner Brooks reported on one volunteer's desire to bring back the October planning social that Commissioner Sharpe organized. This will be discussed at the May meeting.

Other Business:

- Chairman Moore reported that he had not had any response to the letter he drafted for Lexington County Council on behalf of the Museum, of which Commissioners approved, and subsequently sent. The letter expressed opposition to the closing of Old State Road, which has been in use for more than 268 years, without public comment. There were two well-researched addendums to the letter: a Brief History of Old State Road, and a white paper on the importance of the Preservation of Old State Road. Moore reported that he had received some verbal comment so far, but no commitments. Commissioners expressed appreciated to Chairman Moore and recommended that his efforts continue.
- Mayor Partin and the City Manager have asked Director Redmond to submit several dates for the proposed visit to the Cayce Cemetery and Locks. Commissioners agreed that Saturdays would be best and suggested dates in May, preferably May 7th or 14th.

- Having no further business, Commissioner Dantzler moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Sharpe seconded and the motion was carried.

The next meeting of the Museum Commission is set for Wednesday, May 4, 2016, 4:00 pm.

Commissioners are also urged to study the action items and be prepared to discuss prior to the summer recess.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Brooks
Secretary, Board of Commissioners

CC: Museum Commission Chair Archie Moore and Museum Complex Commissioners
Leo Redmond, Museum Complex Director; Rachel Steen, Assistant Director