

LEXINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM COMMISSION MINUTES

AUGUST 1, 2017

Members Present: Bill Kiesling, Edie Harmon, SaBrina Jeffcoat, Joyce Mize and Laura McMahan

Members Absent: Mary Sharpe (family illness), Cathy Stutts, Rhett Inabinett, and Jim Riddle

Others Present: J. R. Fennell, Museum Director, and Sylvia Clyburn, President of the Friends of the Lexington County Museum

Commission Chairman Bill Kiesling called the meeting to order at 5:30. Roll was taken and at that time the minutes of June 6, 2017 were accepted as information as there was no quorum. With the later arrival of a member, a quorum did exist. At that time, the business of the minutes was revisited and Joyce Mize made the motion seconded by Edie Harmon to accept the minutes as printed. There was a correction under acquisitions. Stanley Rikard's name had been printed incorrectly as Stanley Hite. The minutes passed unanimously as corrected.

Friends of the Lexington County Museum Report: Friends President, Sylvia Clyburn reported that discussion continues concerning the Museum Gala scheduled for February 17, 2018. As this is a major fundraiser for the museum, options are being discussed and reviewed.

Old Business: J. R. Fennell, Director of the Museum reported on the following events:

On June 10th approximately 300 people attended a Murders and Mysteries presentation on Main Street in Lexington. The new PA system assisted with sound for the program. The next presentation is planned for October 28, 2017. There is no charge, though a donation jar is present at the event.

Linda Griffith, Secretary of the Legislative Delegation, had requested Director Fennell to speak to 35 ladies who are members of a sorority. A donation to the Friends of the Museum was made.

Publicity for events continues to be made in the museum newsletter, the Chronicle and the ColaDaily daily email newsletter, as well as Facebook.

The Hands-on History summer break program in its second year had 30 attending the first session on June 20th and 50 attending the second on July 13th. This program was designed for grammar school age children and follows the state standards of instruction. The workshops lasted from 10:30 - 12:00 noon.

The annual Family Day held on June 24th was attended by approximately 200 people. For many this was their first visit to the museum.

Speaking appearances of Director Fennell included:

June 9th at the Lowman Home on the superstitions of the Dutch Fork area,

June 10th at the Horry County Museum in Conway on the history of alcohol in South Carolina,

July 2nd at the SC State Archives on Dave the Potter and Edgefield pottery

July 11th at the Main Branch of the Lexington County Library on Jimmy Doolittle's Raiders and the Columbia Airport

July 18th at the Georgetown County Museum on the history of alcohol in South Carolina and

July 25th in Aiken at the Aiken County Museum's program "History On Tap" series about the history of alcohol in South Carolina.

Plans continue for the Solar Eclipse and the museum hosting the Augusta Astronomy Club as the club presents informational sessions on August 21st. The program time is 11:00 - 4:00 with totality at 2:30. There will be stations for information, children's programs and tours of the Fox House with a focus on early lighting. Water and Moon Pies will be available.

Work continues on the McMahan Library.

Construction updates were given by Director Fennell:

Work on the Lawrence Corley Cabin continues with the wood for the floor having been located. The installation should take several hours. Posts for the porch have not been obtained so the original wood posts will be used to support the porch roof.

The County has approved the repairs for the Fox House and the Koon House. Repairs focus mainly on the roofs. Plans for the detached restrooms have also been approved and were viewed. The restrooms will be located near the Horace Harmon Exhibit Hall. There is also a plan to add a handicap ramp to the Hazelius House/tour office. The ramp will be added to the street side of the house with the porch railing being removed on that end.

Communication continues with the Younginer family about the obtaining of the Central African American School.

Monthly Reports: Report reflects steady attendance. Several expenditures included the repair of the wagon wheel completed at cost, a sweet potato bank ventilator construction, and a repair to the mortar in the outdoor brick oven.

New Business: The Halloween History program will be held the evenings of October 26th and 27th at 7:00, 8:00 and 9:00. The skits for this year will be based on "grave robbing" tales.

Joyce Mize brought to the Commission's attention to the By-Laws concerning a quorum. The required number is 5. She also voiced a concern about the members who have been appointed and do not attend. The commission agreed that there is an expectation when accepting an appointment to attend the meetings of the commission. A reminder will be sent to commission members concerning attendance.

Acquisitions: A hand-stitched pieced doll quilt ca. 1870 was donated by Horace Harmon, a violin with case ca. 1870 was donated by Sharon Shealy and two Confederate ceramic telegraph insulators with white glaze found in Aiken County were donated. The motion to accept all acquisitions was made by Joyce Mize and seconded by Edie Harmon. The motion passed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45. The next meeting will be October 3rd.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura S. McMahan, Secretary