

GAUTIER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

January 9, 2015 9:30 a.m.
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Bill Bray, Chairperson. Other members present were: Leonard Fuller, Vivian Dailey, Rico Borrazzo, Gaynell Atkinson, Ray Brown, Mike Martin, and Gwen Parker. City staff member Patty Huffman was also in attendance. Mary Elsie Hubley's absence was excused.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved following a motion by Rico Borrazzo, seconded by Gwen Parker.

Business Items:

Leonard Fuller brought a "foot edge" also known as a railroad hand adge to the meeting to show to Commission members. He distributed handouts about these edging tools and explained that they were used at the Gautier Creosote plant to cut squares in railroad ties to fit iron plates that held the rails in place on crossties.

Bill Bray and Patty Huffman gave updates on the MDAH Certified Local Government Grant which includes development of a Historic Sites brochure and signage for the Beachfront Historic District. A local match is required for this grant. Chevron contributed \$500 towards the project.

Patty Huffman gave an update on the MDAH Community Heritage Preservation grant. This grant provides funding to stabilize the foundation and to begin repairs on the former Colored School. An architect has been retained and has started work on assessing the project and developing plans. The Steering Committee charged with fundraising will meet again on January 15th. The group discussed some options for fundraising such as banquets or other special events.

The group discussed their goal to have a street or other city amenity named after Barbara Sue Ross. Mary Elsie Hubley was unable to attend the meeting but she is still in the process of working with the MS Gulf Coast Community College on some type of recognition, and they have expressed interest in either naming the walking trail or a college building after Sue Ross. The family will pay for an appropriate sign.

The group discussed the need to continue with the People of interest Project started by Leonard Fuller several years ago. Bill Bray will send a list of completed bios and suggested People of Interest to all of the Commission members so that they can select people to research. It was also discussed that each Council member should write his/her own bio for inclusion. Vivian suggested contacting history teachers at Gautier High School or MGCCC to see if students would be interested in a writing competition.

Bill Bray informed the group that Yvonne Jones had contacted him about Franklin Cemetery. The Gautier Historic Preservation Commission determined that they do not have the resources available to assist with the cemetery. Bill plans to give Mrs. Jones contact information for MDAH in case the cemetery meets the criteria for abandoned historical cemeteries.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Huffman, CLG Coordinator