

GAUTIER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

**March 13, 2014
MINUTES**

The Gautier Historic Preservation Commission met at 9:30 a.m. on March 13, 2014 at the Gautier Public Library. Members present were Bill Bray, Leonard Fuller, Gaynell Atkinson, Ray Brown, and Mary Elsie Hubley. Patty Huffman, representing the City of Gautier, also attended.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bill Bray.

Bill informed the members that the Planning Technician Babs Logan is no longer employed with the city. Ms. Logan had served as the Certified Local Government Coordinator for the last several months. Leonard Fuller made a motion that Patty Huffman, the City's Grants & Projects Manager, assume the responsibilities of the Certified Local Government Coordinator. The motion was seconded by Ray Brown and passed unanimously.

Current Projects:

Bill Bray asked Patty Huffman to provide an update on grant funding. Patty reported that the MDAH Community Heritage Preservation Grant for the rehabilitation of the Colored School has been approved for \$80,000 with a local cash match of \$20,000. This initial phase of funding will be used for a structural report, hazardous materials report, as-built drawings, new roof, and foundation repairs. The work must be completed by December 1, 2016. The building will be re-purposed as a Welcome Center/Visitor's Center and will include an exhibit of a one-room schoolhouse to honor its history as a 1920's to 1940's African-American school. The City is working with architect Leigh Jaunsen with Dale Partners on the project. The Commission has been asked to provide members to serve on a Colored School Project Steering Committee to assist with fundraising and other planning. All five members in attendance volunteered to serve on this committee. Bill suggested that Gautier Pride or the Rotary Foundation may be of assistance so that donations can be tax deductible.

Patty also gave an update on a pending grant application to MDAH for a Certified Local Government grant. These grants are only available to Certified Local Government communities. The City recently applied for \$4,022.06 in Publications/Marketing funding to create signage for the Beachfront Historic District, develop and print brochures and rack cards, and to design a website. This grant requires a local match of the same amount. A local business has expressed interest in helping with the cash match. Grant awards will be announced in late April. The grant period runs through September 2015. See the attached summary for more information about these two grants.

Commission Membership:

The Commission reviewed the list of current Commission members and their terms. Gaynell Atkinson stated that she is willing to renew her three year term through January 2017. A replacement is needed for Sue McCanliss, and James Henry LeBatard is also unable to attend meetings due to poor health. Commission members were urged to suggest community members to be nominated for City Council approval. Ray Brown referred to the list of qualifications recommended in the Commission's Rules of Procedure including experience in urban planning, American Studies, American civilization, cultural geography, cultural anthropology, interior design, law, and related fields. Bill Bray stated that he would contact the MS Gulf Coast Community College for potential candidates. It was also noted that City Council had stated previously that persons of color were needed for diversity.

Ray reminded the group that the By-Laws state that members will be removed if they miss three meetings during the year. New member Mike Martin will need to be contacted to see if he is interested in remaining on the Commission since he has missed the last few meetings.

Ongoing Activities/Projects:

To continue the program on People of Interest, Leonard suggested that people who had worked at the Creosote Plant could help with the history of the first residents of Gautier. People of Interest can include anyone who has contributed to the city, sports figures, and political figures. According to Leonard, a history of the city's various civic groups is included in Jack Womack's book. Leonard distributed write-ups on himself, Agnes (Sissy) Grinstead Anderson, and George William Martin. Ray Brown is working on contacting former resident Coach Mario Edwards with Florida State football.

A two-drawer filing cabinet is needed to store Jack Womack's files. Patty and Bill will check to see if any surplus cabinets are available to be placed at the Library.

The St. Pierre's Episcopal Church State Historical Marker has been ordered and will be erected by the City when it arrives. The George Farragut State Historical Marker has been damaged and is currently stored at the Planning Department in City Hall. Bill Bray will contact Paul Fox with the City to see if he can repair the sign. The two historic panels provided by the Jackson County Historical Society are also stored at the Planning Department in City Hall until a suitable location is identified.

Leonard Fuller informed the group that he has contacted the State Forestry Department regarding the Hilda Fire Tower.

City Announcements:

- March 10th State of the City Address at MGCCC at 6:00 p.m.
- March 11th Workshop on Revising the Animal Control Ordinance at City Hall at 6:00 p.m.
- April 5th Easter Egg Hunt at Shepard State Park 10:00 a.m.
- April 26th Household Hazardous Waste Collection at Mall from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon

New Business/Discussion:

MDAH's new Local Preservation Assistance Coordinator and Certified Local Government Grant Administrator is Barry White. Minutes, Annual Reports, and general concerns should be directed to him. His contact information is listed below. Mary Elsie Hubley will forward minutes to Patty Huffman to send to Mr. White.

Barry White
Historic Preservation Division
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-057
bwhite@mdah.state.ms.us
(601) 576-6953

Ray Brown reported that he is in the process of reviewing the Historic Preservation Commission's By-Laws and that he will submit a revised draft to the members with his suggestions. He noted that some areas need additional flexibility such as allowing the meeting time of day to be established at the discretion of the Chairperson as long as adequate notice is given.

Leonard Fuller showed the group photographs of the Ground Zero Museum (Old Waveland School) that was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina and suggested a field trip to visit the repaired building. Old windows are used inside the building to showcase old photos.

The next meeting will be held on May 8, 2014. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Elsie Hubley