

GAUTIER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

November 13, 2014 9:30 a.m.
MINUTES

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

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

Business Items:

Gaynell Atkinson provided a piece of original Singing River pottery (an oyster shell) to be placed in the City Hall display case along with other pieces of original pottery.

Ray Brown showed the group posters from the late local historian, Jack Womack. These articles may be laminated to help preserve them for future display.

Leonard Fuller shared with all members a copy of the packet that he submitted to MDAH for the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Beachfront Historic District. Leonard is still working with MDAH and the Forestry Service to have the Hilda Fire Tower named a MS Landmark. He would like a small sign placed there once this designation is obtained.

The group discussed the unveiling ceremony for the St. Pierre's Episcopal Church historical marker which was held on November 7, 2014. Mrs. Melbaleen Lewis contributed the funds for the marker. Leonard Fuller stated that the City used to pay for historic markers but the last three markers were purchased with funds from private donations. A motion was made by Vivian Dailey, seconded by Gwen Parker, to start the process to apply for a marker for the former Gautier Colored School. The motion was unanimously approved.

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 has met twice. Rico Borrazzo has identified additional volunteers to assist with fundraising. Vivian Dailey informed the group that the Gautier Mullet and Music Festival has decided to contribute the net proceeds from the recent festival to the Schoolhouse Project once all expenses have been paid. Leonard Fuller has also sent an informational packet to Representative John Read on the State Appropriations Committee for possible consideration. Leonard requested that a similar packet be sent to Senator Brice Wiggins. Bill Bray distributed approximately 100 flyers regarding the project to attendees at the Gautier Business Expo held on September 18, 2014.

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. A formal sponsorship request has been made to Chevron, and some funding is expected.

Patty Huffman will prepare and submit the Certified Local Government Annual Report to MDAH prior to the December 5th deadline. Rico Borrazzo asked that research be conducted on the City's responsibilities related to properties designated on the National Register of Historic Places.

In other business, the group discussed their goal to have a street or other city amenity named after Barbara Sue Ross. Mary Elsie Hubley has contacted the MS Gulf Coast Community College about this 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.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Huffman,
CLG Coordinator