

**CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM**

To: Samantha Abell, City Manager
From: Patty Huffman, Grants and Projects Manager
Through: Chandra Nicholson, Director of Economic Development and Planning
Date: March 25, 2014
Subject: Historic Preservation Commission Nominations for the Gautier Colored School Rehabilitation Project Steering Committee

REQUEST:

The Gautier Historic Preservation Commission has nominated five individuals for possible appointment to a Steering Committee for the Gautier Colored School Rehabilitation Project.

BACKGROUND:

The Gautier Colored School building (also known as the West Pascagoula Colored School) was originally built in 1921 by patrons of the school as a one-room schoolhouse for Gautier's African-American children and was used as a school until 1946. Later, the building was used as a community center and voting place. The building was designated as a *Mississippi Landmark* by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) on October 19, 2012 and was listed as one of the Ten Most Endangered Historic Places in Mississippi for 2013. MDAH has awarded the City \$80,000 in Community Heritage Preservation Grant funding for the first phase of a project which will focus on stabilizing the foundation and adding a new roof. Ultimately the structure will be re-purposed as a Welcome Center/Visitors' Center with an exhibit of a one-room school house. All grant applicants must provide cash matching funds (private, local or federal) in an amount not less than 20% of the total project (or \$20,000). The Gautier City Council plans to appoint a Steering Committee to assist with the planning, vision, and fundraising activities for this project.

DISCUSSION:

At their March 13, 2014 meeting, the Historic Preservation Commission nominated five individuals to serve on the Gautier Colored School Project Steering Committee. These nominations for City Council approval include:

Bill Bray, Leonard Fuller, Raymond Brown, Mary Elsie Hubley, and Gaynell Atkinson

RECOMMENDATION:

The Economic Development and Planning Department recommends that City Council appoint the five individuals nominated by the Historic Preservation Commission to serve on the Gautier Colored School Project Steering Committee along with other positions to be filled by City Council.

City Council may:

1. approve the appointments of the five individuals nominated by the Historic Preservation Commission for the Steering Committee; or
2. disapprove one or more of the nominations.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Historic Preservation Commission Nomination Request Letter
Email Response from Bill Bray, Chair

Mayor
Gordon T. Gollott

City of Gautier
Gautier, Mississippi

City Manager
Samantha D. Abell

City Clerk
Cynthia Russell

Council
At Large Mary F. Martin
Ward 1 Johnny Jones
Ward 2 Hurley Ray Guillotte
Ward 3 Casey C. Vaughan
Ward 4 Charles "Rusty" Anderson
Ward 5 Adam D. Colledge



3330 Highway 90
Gautier, MS 39553
Phone: (228) 497-8000
Fax: (228) 497-8028
Email: gautier@gautier-ms.gov
Website: www.gautier-ms.gov

March 18, 2014

Bill Bray, President
Gautier Historic Preservation Commission
3330 Highway 90
Gautier, MS 39553

RE: Gautier Colored School
Steering Committee Nominations

Dear Bill:

The City is very excited about our recent grant award from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) for a Community Heritage Preservation Grant for the former Gautier Colored School. The rehabilitation of the old schoolhouse has been one of the Historic Preservation Commission's goals for many years, and we are thrilled that progress can now be made. The City's approved grant application included the stabilization and repair of this dilapidated structure as the first step in the City's plan to rehabilitate the building and re-purpose it as a Welcome/Visitor's Center and as an exhibit of a one-room school for African-American children from the 1920's to the mid-1940's. The grant award for Phase I of this rehabilitation project is \$80,000 and requires a local cash match of \$20,000.

The City Council would like the Commission's assistance with nominating five (5) members for the school rehabilitation project Steering Committee. The City Council will be responsible for approving nominations and filling all remaining positions on the committee. The Steering Committee will assist the City Council with the planning, vision, and fundraising activities for the project.

Please let me know as soon as possible about potential candidates for the Steering Committee. Thank you to everyone on the Commission for your dedication to the preservation of the City's historic resources. You are truly making Gautier a better place!

Sincerely,

Chandra Nicholson
Director, Economic Development & Planning

From: william_bray
To: phuffman@gautier-ms.gov
Cc: [Leonard Fuller](#); [Mary Elsie Hubley](#); [Gaynell Atkinson](#); [Raymond Brown](#)
Subject: Re: nominations for the Colored School Project Steering Committee
Date: Monday, March 24, 2014 2:21:43 PM

Patty, this is to confirm that Leonard Fuller, Ray Brown, Mary Elsie Hubley, Gaynell Atkinson, all members of the Gautier Historic Preservation Commission, and myself would like to serve on the Colored School Rehabilitation Project Steering Committee.
Bill Bray, Pres
Gautier Historic Preservation Commission

From: Patty Huffman <phuffman@gautier-ms.gov>
To: wgbay@bellsouth.net
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2014 8:01 AM
Subject: nominations for the Colored School Project Steering Committee

Hi Bill,

Could you send me back an email confirming that the Historic Preservation Committee had five volunteers who would like to serve on the Colored School Rehabilitation Project Steering Committee? We would like to send these names to City Council for approval. The five volunteers were:

Bill Bray
Leonard Fuller
Ray Brown
Mary Elsie Hubley
Gaynell Atkinson

Thanks for your help with this.
Patty

Patty Huffman
Grants & Projects Manager

City of Gautier, MS
3330 Highway 90
Gautier, MS 39553

(C) 228.219.8016
e-mail: phuffman@gautier-ms.gov
web-site: www.gautier-ms.gov