

GWINNETT HISTORICAL RESTORATION & PRESERVATION BOARD

Meeting Minutes**Monday, February 24, 2020 – 10:00am**

Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 185 W. Crogan St., Lawrenceville, GA. 30046

Members present: Jim Nitkowski, Phyllis Davis, Aaron Ragans, Marlene Taylor-Crawford, and Chris Jenkins

Member Absent: Marvin Nash Worthy

Others present: Tina Fleming, Mark Patterson, Sarah Barlow, Grant Guess, Glenn Boorman, Brian Boggs, Richard Lux, Betty Warbington, Beverly Paff, Ann Swann, and Rosena Lyons

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jim Nitkowski at 10:04am.

2. Welcome/Opening Remarks

Jim Nitkowski welcomed everyone to the meeting. The 2018 Gwinnett County Preservation Hall of Fame Award awarded to the Historical Restoration and Preservation Board was returned to Jim Nitkowski. The award was then turned over to Sarah Barlow to be displayed at the Lawrenceville Female Seminary.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion made to approve the Agenda

{Action: approved; Motion: Aaron Ragans ; Second: Chris Jenkins; Vote: (5-0)Davis -Yes; Ragans-Yes; Nitkowski-Yes; Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Jenkins- Yes}

4. Approval of Minutes – November 18, 2019

Motion made to change minutes from the November 18th, 2019 meeting in section 5 to read “Mrs. Davis inquired what the process of obtaining a new County Historian would be, as Mr. Marvin Nash-Worthy has not been able to attend meeting for multiple years due to health issues. Tracy Lettsome informed the board they would need the Chief Judge of the Superior Court of Gwinnett County to appoint a new County Historian, after it has been made clear that Marvin Nash-Worthy is no longer able to attend meetings.”

{Action: approved; Motion: Phyllis Davis ; Second: Marelene Taylor- Crawford; Vote: (5-0)Davis - Yes; Ragans-Yes; Nitkowski-Yes; Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Jenkins- Yes}

Motion made to accept revised Minutes

{Action: approved; Motion: Aaron Ragans ; Second: Chris Jenkins; Vote: (5-0)Davis -Yes; Ragans-Yes; Nitkowski-Yes; Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Jenkins- Yes}

5. Announcements (Board Members)

Marlene Taylor- Crawford gave a list of dates for upcoming events for Black History Month.

February 25th at 7pm there will be an event at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Building in accordance with the Black History Display in the lobby

February 29th the African American Bus Tour for Gwinnett County will depart from the Lawrenceville Female Seminary

Month of February, Tuesday through Friday from 10am to 4pm the Salem Baptist Church on Church St. in Lilburn will open displaying information on Black History in Gwinnett.

Rubye Neal, Historian for the United Ebony Society of Gwinnett County presented at the Norcross Public Library on Black History.

Jim Nitkowski regrestfully informed the HRPB board that he will be resigning from his position on the Board as he will be moving out of the county.

1. New Business

a. Election of Officers:

Motion to vote Aaron Ragans to chairperson of HRPB.

{Action: approved; Motion: Chris Jenkins; Second: Phyllis Davis; Vote: (5-0)Davis -Yes; Ragans-Yes; Nitkowski-Yes; Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Chris Jenkins- Yes}

Aaron Ragans tabled his decision on vice-chair and secretary until next meeting.

b. Potential presentations for consideration:

Marlene Crawford discussed the desire to have the Georgia Trust come and present at a meeting to tell the members about some of their projects and resources. She also requested the Georgia Department of Natural Resources present at a meeting to discuss the preservation of African American resources.

Tina Fleming discussed some of the involvement Gwinnett County Department of Community Services has had with the Georgia Trust. She will have a list of the Awards the Georgia Trust has presented to Gwinnett County compiled and sent to the HRPB.

2. Old Business

a. Update on Preservation Awards selection, form and plans for display of previous award

Aaron will finish the form for the upcoming preservation awards and work with the other board members getting it sent out to the community. The award nomination submission deadline will be the end of April.

b. County Appointed historian discussion

Mark Patterson informed the HRPB of a few issues with their by-laws. He will work with them to get the issues resolved. While fixing these issues the HRPB will have a chance to propose amended by-laws to allow a new county historian to be appointed without removing the current county historian from his position. The HRPB will discuss among themselves to have the amended by-laws ready by next meeting.

3. Project Updates –Mark Patterson

- a. Elisha Winn House: Construction underway: bathroom station, parking lot, trail system, and electrical upgrades
- b. Gwinnett Historic Courthouse: In process of roof repair
- c. Lawrenceville Female Seminary: In process of roof repair
- d. Hudson Nash House: Contractor is restoring doors, windows and other features. Project will include a nature trail onsite.
- e. Freeman’s Mill: Exhibits being installed beginning of March. Ribbon cutting for Exhibits will be March 17th.
- f. Promised Land Site: Demolition has started on nonhistoric buildings. The original hand dug well was located in the demolition.
- g. Lawrenceville Female Seminary: Preservation Plaza will be going to bid by end of March and will be sent for Board of Commissioner approval in summer.

4. Program Updates – Sarah Barlow

- a. Freemans Mill: Homeschool program to use new exhibit at end of March. First field trip will be April from Freemans Mill Elementary, Working with Gwinnett County Public School system to best use site for future educational programs.
- b. GJAC: Acknowledged the great work the United Ebony Society has done with the exhibit in the lobby of GJAC.
- c. Lawrenceville Female Seminary: 2 Genealogy workshops, one focused on African American Genealogy.
- d. Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center: Wedding Expo March 1st

5. Comments from Audience

- a. Beverly Paff from the Gwinnett Historical Society informed the HRPB that Fort Daniel and the Hudson Nash House have been listed on the Georgia Trust Website under their Places of Peril program.
- b. Rosena Lyons requested more people in the Promised Land community are made aware of upcoming events and meetings concerning the Promised Land site. She would like more histories to be taken from more individuals in the community.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 11:30 was approved.

{Action: approved; Motion: Chris Jenkins; Second: Marlene Taylor-Crawford; Vote: (5-0)Davis - Yes; Ragans-Yes; Nitkowski-Yes; Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Chris Jenkins- Yes}

Next meeting: Monday May 18th 2020 10:00am, Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center.

2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford Ga 30519