



GWINNETT HISTORICAL RESTORATION & PRESERVATION BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 12, 2021 10 AM

Virtual Meeting

Members present: Ann Bender, Marlene Taylor-Crawford, Demetrios Lambros

Member Absent: Justin Walsh, Marvin Nash Worthy

Others present: Tina Fleming, Sarah Barlow, Betty Warbington, Beverly Paff, Diane McCormic, Chuck Warbington, 404-XXX-XX72, Curtis Clemons, Stephen Babb, Diane Fisher, M. Walker, Bobbie, Toby Lyles,

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Marlene Taylor-Crawford at 10:02AM.

2. Welcome/Opening Remarks

Marlene Taylor-Crawford welcomed everyone to the Special Meeting. Sarah Barlow took roll call of Board members.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion made to approve the Agenda

{Action: approved; Motion: Ann Bender; Second: Demetrios Lambros; Vote: (3-0) Lambros -Yes; Bender-Yes; Taylor-Crawford-Yes}

4. Announcements (Board Members)

Demetrios Lambros stated the effort to save the Knox Cabin, an 1800's tongue and groove cabin and shared the link for citizen involvement.

Marlene Taylor-Crawford shared a workshop put on by the GA Historic Trust on Preserving Georgia's African American resources on May 6th for \$10 and registration was through the GA Historic Trust website.

5. Old Business

- a. Soil ceremony discussion and presentation with Gwinnett Remembrance Coalition (GRC) in collaboration with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI)

Marlene Taylor-Crawford stated that the Board had previously voted to recommend to the Gwinnett Board of Commissioners to partner with the GRC and EJI for a soil ceremony and event at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse property. She provided the update that after speaking with the Gwinnett County Law Department, the Gwinnett Board of Commissioners informed her approval vote was not needed to proceed for the partnership since it is not of a legal nature. She stated there is a partnership and the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lawrenceville are supportive.

Chuck Warbington, the City Manager of the City of Lawrenceville, presented on potential sites to collect the soil for the soil ceremony and preservation. Chuck Warbington met with Gwinnett County staff, Marlene Taylor-Crawford and others to ensure accurate locations were identified of the Charles Hale lynching.

Chuck Warbington provided the following information for the Board:

- Geologist has been consulted and has offered to provide in-kind services as partnership and would not charge fees.
- City of Lawrenceville would recommend area not in the parking lot due to less disruption, easier access to soil, multiple people could access and help collect soil.
- He stated the City of Lawrenceville would close Perry Street from 8am-12pm on June 19th, 2021 for the event.
- He stated they would notify businesses and work with whoever was needed for final arrangements of event.

Ann Bender asked why shrubs would be removed, or why they needed to get to older soil.

Chuck Warbington responded that the older azaleas need to be removed anyways and the intent is to collect residual soil representative of the era of the Charles Hale lynching in 1911. He stated there was electrical lines and sprinklers that would be identified, and safety would be a priority. He requested the City of Lawrenceville Arts Commission be involved in future monument or plaque.

Marlene Taylor-Crawford stated the Board would discuss that request.

Demetrios Lambros asked what the area would look like.

Chuck Warbington stated there was no plan at this point, but they would work with the HRPB and Gwinnett to determine what could be placed there in the future.

Marlene Taylor-Crawford stated that part of the GRC and EJI project includes a historical marker so they will follow their guidelines in the future since they are partners.

Demetrios Lambros recommended something temporary after event to educate anyone who did not attend.

Ann Bender thanked Chuck Warbington and stated her support.

Motion made to approve the location of the soil to be collected in the garden area identified and recommended by Chuck Warbington.

{Action: approved; Motion: Marlene Taylor-Crawford; Second: Demetrios Lambros; Vote: (3-0) Bender-Yes; Lambros-Yes; Taylor-Crawford-Yes}

Stephen Babb from the GRC provided the following updates to the Board on progress and the next steps for the soil ceremony and event:

- Draft program for the event including an invocation, music, poetry, and a narrative on what happened to Charles Hale.
- Coordination with EJI, following guidelines for the ceremony.
- Recording of event, potentially livestream or available afterwards.
- Sharing the historical memo from EJI on what happened to Charles Hale.
- This will be first public event for GRC, working on Facebook page, website, and marketing materials.
- GRC is finalizing speakers, musicians, and clergy from African American churches
- Will need assistance from City of Lawrenceville and Gwinnett for proclamations and marketing.
- Will obtain jars for soil from EJI and finalize plans for EJI staff participation-whether in person or virtually

Curtis Clemons stated the following needs for the event:

- Power needs for filming the event.
- Microphones, speakers, sound system
- If there was a budget for videographer, professional photographer and to produce and distribute the information.
- He estimated \$1600 and they could potentially work with the City of Lawrenceville on the budget
- He anticipated this to be a high-profile event with dignitaries and potentially security needs.
- He requested the City of Lawrenceville and Gwinnett consider assisting with marketing as well.
- He anticipated a 90-minute event run efficiently and safely with whatever signage was needed regarding Covid-19 regulations.

Marlene Taylor-Crawford stated this event was a partnership and needs would be met to make sure everything happened. She stated she would be the point of contact in regards to scheduling meetings, creating checklists, timelines and she would address all needs to achieve the goal they all had.

6. Comments from Audience

Sarah Barlow addressed each audience member and allowed 2 minutes for public comment:

- 404-XXX-XX72-Stephen Babb: he stated the historical marker was for a later phase of the project, another part of community remembrance and EJI has a process to implement that.
- Betty Warbington-no comment
- Beverly Paff-no comment
- Bobbie-with Gwinnett Historical Society, glad to hear what is going on
- Chuck Warbington-no comment
- Curtis Clemons-no comment
- Diane Fisher-from Peachtree Corners, pleased at the citizen-led initiative, robust and enthusiastic response of City of Lawrenceville and Gwinnett to do this important work.

- Diane McCormic-Preservation Committee with the Gwinnett Historical Society, Charlie Hale is buried in Pauper Cemetery, in state of neglect. Would part of the initiative be to spruce up that area?
- M. Walker-no comment
- Rubye Neal-no comment
- Toby Lyles-thanked the committee and Coalition

Marlene Taylor-Crawford stated the Board would discuss the question posed and respond at the next meeting.

Ann Bender thanked everyone for joining and looking forward to moving forward.

Marlene Taylor-Crawford thanked everyone for joining and looking forward to partnership and they will make sure everything happens. She also thanked the presenters.

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Chairwoman at 10:46am and was approved.

Next meeting: Monday May 17, 2021, 10:00am virtual meeting