

**DRAFT**

GWINNETT HISTORICAL RESTORATION & PRESERVATION BOARD

**Meeting Minutes**

Monday, May 17, 2021, 10:00 AM

Virtual Meeting

**Members present:** Chairwoman Marlene Taylor-Crawford, Ann Bender, Demetrios Lambros, and Justin Walsh

**Ex-Officio Members:** Marvin Nash Worthy

**Others present:** Commissioner Kirkland Carden, Commissioner Marlene Fosque, Tina Fleming, Mark Patterson, Sarah Barlow, Stephen Babb, Ray Harvin, Toby Lyles, Diane McCormic, Beverly Paff, and Betty Warbington

1. Call to Order
  - a. The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford at 10:01am.
2. Welcome/Opening Remarks
  - a. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford welcomed everyone and encouraged participation and engagement.
3. Approval of Agenda  
{Action: approved; Motion: Lambros; Second: Bender; Vote: (4-0) Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Walsh-Yes; Lambros- Yes; Bender-Yes}
4. Approval of Minutes (February 2021 Regular Meeting, March 2021 Special Meeting, April 2021 Special Meeting)

Motion made for approval of February 2021 minutes.

{Action: approved; Motion: Lambros; Second: Walsh; Vote: (4-0) Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Walsh-Yes; Lambros- Yes; Bender-Yes}

Motion made for approval of March 2021 minutes.

{Action: approved; Motion: Walsh; Second: Lambros; Vote: (4-0) Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Walsh-Yes; Lambros- Yes; Bender-Yes}

Motion made for approval of April 2021 minutes.

{Action: approved; Motion: Lambros; Second: Bender; Vote: (4-0) Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Walsh-Yes; Lambros- Yes; Bender-Yes}

5. Election of Officers  
Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford requested nominations for Vice Chair, there were none. She nominated Ann Bender.  
{Action: approved; Motion: Taylor-Crawford; Second: Lambros; Vote: (4-0) Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Walsh-Yes; Lambros- Yes; Bender-Yes}
6. Announcements (Board Members)
  - a. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford discussed the Juneteenth Celebration event at Rhodes Jordan Park on June 19, 2021, from 11am-4pm. She stated this was a partnership event with the

United Ebony Society, Gwinnett Community Outreach Program and Gwinnett Community Services Department.

7. New Business

- a. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford recommended a proclamation through the Board of Commissioners in honor of the soil ceremony event on June 19, 2021, on the grounds of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse.  
{Action: approved; Motion: Taylor-Crawford; Second: Bender; Vote: (4-0) Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Walsh-Yes; Lambros- Yes; Bender-Yes}
- b. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford recommended a proclamation through the Board of Commissioners for the Juneteenth Celebration on June 19, 2021, at Rhodes Jordan Park.  
{Action: approved; Motion: Taylor-Crawford; Second: Lambros; Vote: (4-0) Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Walsh-Yes; Lambros- Yes; Bender-Yes}

8. Old Business

- a. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford discussed the Bylaws and the frequency and timing of meetings. The Bylaws require quarterly meetings, and the Board discussed several options. Justin Walsh stated he supported monthly meetings in the future but to finish the year with bimonthly. Ann Bender stated she supported bimonthly meetings and that the HRPB could schedule special meetings as needed. Demetrios Lambros stated that until Bylaws can be updated, regular monthly meetings with more advanced notice might work best.

Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford called for a motion to change the quarterly meetings to bimonthly meetings.

{Action: approved; Motion: Bender; Second: Lambros; Vote: (4-0) Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Walsh-Yes; Lambros- Yes; Bender-Yes}

- b. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford discussed time of the meetings to encourage participation of all Board members. Demetrios Lambros can adjust his schedule if he has enough advance notice of meeting times, either 10am or 6pm. Justin Walsh discussed a rotating meeting time where one meeting would be at 10am and the next meeting would be at 6pm.

Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford called for a motion to change the time of meetings to include a 10am and 6pm rotation.

{Action: approved; Motion: Walsh; Second: Lambros; Vote: (4-0) Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Walsh-Yes; Lambros- Yes; Bender-Yes}

- c. Board members discussed the need for another Special Meeting before the Juneteenth and Soil Ceremony events. They discussed if the next regular meeting should be in July or to keep the regularly scheduled August meeting and begin bimonthly meetings after that date.

Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford made a motion for a Special Meeting to discuss the Soil Ceremony and Juneteenth events on June 7, 2021.

{Action: approved; Motion: Taylor-Crawford; Second: Lambros; Vote: (4-0) Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Walsh-Yes; Lambros- Yes; Bender-Yes}

- d. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford made a motion to schedule the following bimonthly meetings: August 16, 2021, at 6pm, October 18, 2021, at 10am, December 20, 2021, at 6pm.  
{Action: approved; Motion: Taylor-Crawford; Second: Bender; Vote: (4-0) Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Walsh-Yes; Lambros- Yes; Bender-Yes}

- e. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford requested an update from Gwinnett employees on the status of the Court-appointed Historian to the Board. Mark Patterson did not have an update and stated previously the Board planned to continue to discuss the subject. Ann Bender recommended moving towards appointing a new historian or potentially appointing several historians. Demetrios Lambros asked how the historian was appointed. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford requested guidance from Mark Patterson on how this might progress.
  - i. Mark Patterson stated the following:
    1. Bylaws interpreted the appointment to be a lifelong appointment and it was court-appointed.
    2. Appointee cannot be removed; the individual must initiate any movement out of the appointment.
    3. Bylaws could be amended but recommended Board members talk to their commissioners.
    4. Recommended reaching out to broader historic community for assistance in case it may be difficult to find historians to serve on Board.
    5. Recommended that Board consider waiting until the current situation resolves itself and then amend Bylaws, consider long-term sustainability of needs.
  - ii. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford stated she supported engaging the broader historical community. She stated the historian had a title and a role and that is not being fulfilled. She stated she believed the historian would fulfill his title and role if he could and she was not discrediting him, but she stated that others could fill the title and do the work.
  - iii. Demetrios Lambros recommended defining the term of the historian and can replace that person without the court appointment in the best interest of the future Board members.
  - iv. Ann Bender asked if the current historian was receiving notifications of the meetings. Sarah Barlow stated he had not been receiving them, but she would send physical notifications through the mail from now on. She stated he had called staff recently but was not willing to share an updated phone number. Ann Bender asked how long the historian had been out of communication. Sarah Barlow stated he had been inactive since 2018 to her knowledge and Mark Patterson would have to check previous meeting minutes.

Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford made a motion to table the discussion of the historian until the next meeting.

{Action: approved; Motion: Taylor-Crawford; Second: Bender; Vote: (4-0) Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Walsh-Yes; Lambros- Yes; Bender-Yes}

## 9. Project Updates

- a. Mark Patterson gave updates on the following projects:
  - i. Yellow River Post Office Site- finishing up the project by summer, will include interpretive signage.
  - ii. Elisha Winn House Site Improvement Project-new ADA trail, stage, and comfort station will be complete in June and open 7 days per week, partnership with Gwinnett Historical Society.
  - iii. Freeman's Mill-exhibits open to the public the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of month.
  - iv. Promised Land Project-historical research continuing, determining restoration of the house, RFP's on how to do it correctly, bridge project where funding will need to be bridged between two SPLOST campaigns.
- b. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford stated she would like to be more engaged with the projects and requested a tour of the sites. Members discussed best time of day and requested a weekday

morning in the next two months and Mark Patterson recommended 2 sites at a time for each tour. Mark Patterson stated he would send dates and times for tours for the Board to discuss.

#### 10. Program Updates

- a. Sarah Barlow gave updates on the following programs:
  - i. Summer camps were nearly full.
  - ii. Mobile program Swing into Science still in rotation to a new park each week.
  - iii. Summer Meals Program at 25 sites again this summer, many staff assisting.
  - iv. Juneteenth at Rhodes Jordan Park on June 19, 2021, from 11am-4pm.
  - v. Fishing Derbies-partnership with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, free and all equipment included. Next one is June 12, 2021, at Rhodes Jordan Park from 8am-noon.
  - vi. Vernacular Landscape Fellowship project at the Promised Land site in partnership with the Cherokee Garden Library in the Atlanta History Center and the University of Georgia. Student will conduct historical research, geolocating and identification of important landscape features throughout the evolution of the property from the Maguire plantation to the Livsey family era. Additional partners on the project include the National Park Service Historic Preservation Division, Georgia State University, and the Garden Club of Georgia.
  - vii. Partnership with the GA Audubon Society and the webinars being offered discussing inclusion and access in environmental and conservation efforts. One webinar hosted Dr. Carolyn Finney, the author of "Black Faces, White Spaces". Demetrios Lambros requested the link be shared in the minutes: [Dreaming Green Christian Cooper, John Muir, and Playing the Long Game - YouTube](#)

#### 11. Comments from the Audience

- a. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford addressed a question from a previous Special Meeting regarding Mr. Charles Hale's grave. She stated the grave was in Paupers Cemetery #3 and the Board of Commissioners was addressing a potential cleanup with the owners of the property.
- b. Commissioner Fosque-thanked the Board for all they do, first meeting and amazed at the meetings and hard decisions they have been making. She stated the Historian discussion will continue offline but there may have been compensation and may fall under the Board of Commissioners instead. She stated they were discussing the possibility of the current historian having an honorary title. She stated she was looking forward to Juneteenth, the proclamations and thanked Board members again.
- c. Commissioner Carden-recognized the work the Board members are doing. He stated there will be more discussion on the Historian with the Board of Commissioners and will likely be their decision, he requested patience with that action. He stated he hoped the proclamations will also be presented at the events as well. He stated the previous Chair had discussed more mindfulness in development of historical resources. He discussed potential questions for development applicants on identification of historical resources before approvals. He will work with staff on the idea and wants to prioritize conservation of historic resources.
- d. Ms. Porter-thanked everyone and looks forward to events.
- e. Ms. Warbington-thankful the Elisha Winn House property will be open soon, looking forward to prom pictures being taken on site, thankful to County.
- f. Ms. McCormic-no comment
- g. Mr. Harvin-Chairperson for Gwinnett Remembrance Coalition, thankful to City of Lawrenceville, HRPB Board, Gwinnett County officials, next meeting June 12, 2021. Moving forward on soil collection, on track for program. Commissioner Fosque requested adding Gwinnett County as a partner to the flyer for the soil collection ceremony. Mr. Harvin stated they could, now have a website and will add Gwinnett County.

- h. Mr. Babb-thankful for the support from the Board, County and City of Lawrenceville, addressed Commissioner Carden's request to read proclamation at the event, will make that happen. Thankful to Commissioner Carden and Fosque, support exceeded expectations.
- i. Ms. Lyles-no comment

12. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:19am by Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford.

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