

## GWINNETT HISTORICAL RESTORATION &amp; PRESERVATION BOARD

**Meeting Minutes**

Monday, August 16, 2021 10:00AM

Virtual Meeting:

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

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

**Others present:** Tina Fleming, Mark Patterson, Sarah Barlow, Brian Boggs, Cammie Fulmer, Diane Fisher, Amelia Porter, 404-3XX-XX07, Beverly Paff, Betty Warbington, Stephen Babb, and Ray Harvin

1. Call to Order
  - a. The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford at 10:02am.
2. Welcome/Opening Remarks
  - a. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford welcomed everyone.
3. Approval of Agenda  
{Action: approved; Motion: Lambros; Second: Walsh; Vote: (5-0) Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Walsh-Yes; Lambros- Yes; Bender-Yes; Howe-Silvers-Yes}
4. Approval of Minutes-June 7, 2021 Special Meeting
5. Approval of Agenda  
{Action: approved; Motion: Walsh; Second: Lambros; Vote: (5-0) Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Walsh-Yes; Lambros- Yes; Bender-Yes; Howe-Silvers-Yes}
6. Announcements (Board Members)
  - a. No announcements were made.
7. Old Business
  - a. Next steps following Soil Collection Project/Ceremony
    - i. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford stated the Soil Collection Ceremony was powerful and successful. Justin Walsh agreed, a long time coming and is hopeful of more action. Demetrios Lambros requested documentation of event be consolidated as record of what the Board accomplished. He was encouraged by community response. Mark Patterson stated Gwinnett would provide recordings of the event to the Board.
    - ii. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford stated the City of Lawrenceville's City Council and Mayor approved a marker and provided an official letter they would comply with steps to install the historical marker.
    - iii. Stephen Babb and Ray Harvin from the Gwinnett Remembrance Coalition (GRC) presented on steps needed to install a historical marker at the lynching site of Mr. Charles Hale per the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI).
    - iv. GRC showed photos of marker location and example of a marker in Fulton County. GRC explained what the context of the sign would be.

- v. GRC explained the essay contest program for local public high school students. This would be a separate activity. EJI may also provide scholarships. The contest may occur in the fall.
- vi. The GRC is considering unveiling the historical marker on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (MLK Jr. Day) in 2022.
- vii. EJI would cover cost of the fabrication of sign and City of Lawrenceville will install. EJI is estimating 5-6 months for completion.
- viii. Vice Chairwoman Bender requested the link to GRC's website be shared: [Gwinnett Remembrance Coalition \(weebly.com\)](http://GwinnettRemembranceCoalition.weebly.com).
- ix. Justin Walsh asked if unveiling could be in April 2022. Ray Harvin stated that February is a month celebrating Black History and MLK Day seemed a better fit.

b. County Historian

- i. Mark Patterson stated he did not have an update but would have one by the next meeting.

c. Preservation Hall of Fame

- i. Mark Patterson stated the Preservation Hall of Fame event in 2018 honored individuals, organizations, and community partners for their contribution.
- ii. He stated plaques would be installed on granite wall outside of the Lawrenceville Female Seminary and Gwinnett budgeted for the event.
- iii. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford requested Board members review previous criteria for further discussion.
- iv. Demetrios Lambros asked how many recipients. Mark Patterson stated they could determine the number and the 18 inaugural inductees coincided 2018 Bicentennial.
- v. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford asked how the inaugural 18 were nominated. Mark Patterson stated the Bicentennial Committee made the selections.
- vi. Vice Chairwoman Bender suggested awards be brought up in Council meetings.

8. Special Legal Update from Mark Patterson regarding action of Boards and Authorities

- a. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford requested amendment to agenda.
- b. Mark Patterson stated 3 people were required for a quorum, in person or virtual if Board member is traveling. If the quorum is not met, business must be pushed to next meeting and no business can be discussed.
- c. Board members can respond to Secretary if they are traveling and attend virtually. Mark Patterson will get clarification on whether traveling can include out of county, state, or country.
- d. Demetrios Lambros asked if Covid-19 protocols superseded these requirements. Mark Patterson stated that there was no active Governor's Executive Order in place.
- e. Mark Patterson stated the Chairwoman can call a Special Meeting at her discretion if she met requirements per the Georgia Open Meetings Act.

9. New Business

a. Historical Fact

- i. Chairwoman Taylor Crawford requested Board educate and present historical facts at meetings.
- ii. Justin Walsh suggested rotating presentations from each District and facts are not limited to Georgia.

Approval of Adding historical fact to Agenda for each meeting, rotating Districts and beginning with District 1

{Action: approved; Motion: Taylor-Crawford; Second: Lambros; Vote: (5-0) Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Walsh-Yes; Lambros- Yes; Bender-Yes; Howe-Silvers-Yes}

- b. Tour of historic sites on August 21, 2021

- i. Mark Patterson stated he would provide details of the tour in email.
- ii. Demetrios Lambros asked when sites would be completed. Mark Patterson stated the Yellow River Post Office was not open and Promised Land Big House was a bridge project.
- iii. Vice Chairwoman Bender recommended delaying the tour. Mark Patterson will send several new dates for future tour for Board and Hooper-Renwick Legacy Preservation Committee.

Approval of delaying the tour of the historic sites

{Action: approved; Motion: Bender; Second: Walsh; Vote: (5-0) Taylor-Crawford-Yes; Walsh-Yes; Lambros- Yes; Bender-Yes; Howe-Silvers-Yes}

#### 10. Public Comment

- a. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford recognized Bryan Stevenson in the presentation from GRC as the founder of the EJI and the impact he has had.
- b. Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford expressed sympathy for the passing of Mary Long, a well-known Gwinnett resident and historian with the Gwinnett Historical Society.
- c. Beverly Paff-President of the Gwinnett Historical Society thanked the Chairwoman for her condolences on the passing of Mary Long and thanked the Board, she was grateful to attend the meetings. She stated the Winn Fair at the Elisha Winn House would be October 2 and 3, 2022. She stated the Elisha Winn House was built in 1812 and served as the seat of Gwinnett government.
- d. Justin Walsh asked GRC if the family of Mr. Charles Hale would be contacted when the historical marker was unveiled. They stated yes.

#### 11. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11.16am by Chairwoman Taylor-Crawford.

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