

Historical Resources and Museums Program
Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 23, 2013

At 6:02pm Nick Fountain called the meeting to order. In attendance were Al Brothers, Dwight Coleman, Nick Fountain, Craig Friend, Treva Jones, Greg Paul, Cyrus Stacey, Barbara Freedman, Melissa Hockaday, Edna Rich-Ballentine, and Tom Ward. PRGAB Liaison Rodger Koopman was in attendance. Staff members Troy Burton, Erin Campo, Ernest Dollar, Brynn Hoffman and retreat facilitator Kevin Brice were also in attendance. Ed Morris was excused absent.

Mr. Fountain proposed to waive the reading of the minutes from the November meeting and approve by acclamation. This was seconded by Mr. Brothers and approved.

Mr. Fountain then asked Mr. Burton for a program review. Mr. Burton gave board members a Program Report for 2012 and gave a facility report for all HRMP facilities:

At Mordecai Historic Park there is an ongoing plaster project in the North Bedroom and St. Mark's Chapel. Electrical work is ongoing in the chapel and the new LED lights were donated by CREE. HRMP will continue to foster our partnership with CREE for future lighting needs such as the Danielson House. The plaster work inside the home will expand to include the upstairs hallway. The plaster project came in under budget will allowed the additional work to be done. Future CIP work at Mordecai is currently prioritized for main house cedar roof and updating the electrical grid.

The Pope House recently had work completed on the foundation piers to support the addition. The house was also repainted. This project also came in under budget. Currently HRMP is holding the reserve for other projects that may need to take place at other facilities within the program before the end of the fiscal year.

The Borden Building is scheduled to have a lead abatement done in the late summer and will be closed to the public during this time.

Molly Trolley needs to have the air conditioning replaced so that it is usable during summer months.

The City Of Raleigh Museum is a sub-leased facility, so the program is not responsible for upkeep of the facility. However, response time to get problems fixed has been problematic.

Mr. Burton also mentioned that three books and two photographs from the Pope House had been sent to Etherington Conservation to have work done.

Mr. Burton updated the board members on the Mordecai collection loan from Capital Area Preservation (CAP). The loan is year to year and no agreement has been reached regarding a long-term loan or purchase of the collection.

Ms. Ballentine asked if a price had been given for the collection. Mr. Fountain replied that in their meetings this past summer CAP wanted between \$600,000 and \$700,000

which was well beyond our capacity or the recent appraisal. He added that for now efforts to purchase the collection have been put on hold.

Mr. Brothers asked if there were program wide documents for acquisitions. Mr. Burton replied that there were documents at Mordecai, but that HRMP is still working on program wide documents. Currently COR is using the same documents as Mordecai and using the Mordecai system.

Mr. Ward asked if CAP was a public or private organization? Mr. Fountain replied that it is a private non-profit with a board and a director. He stated CAP currently has a contract with Wake County to manage their preservation program. Mr. Fountain and Ed Morris tried to speak with CAP previously regarding resolving the status of the collection but nothing of substance had come from those meetings. He explained that ironically CAP used to be the Mordecai Square Volunteer Association. When they were created in the 1970s it was understood that the City owned the buildings and the Association would own the objects. Over time the Association broadened their mission and scope eventually renaming themselves CAP. Unfortunately when CAP elected to leave the property they were unwilling to leave the objects, instead choosing to capitalize the collection and treating it as an asset. In 2005 the City and CAP executed a loan that kept the objects at Mordecai. The loan is now year to year.

Ms. Jones stated that the debate regarding the collection has been going on for a long time and might have involved a possible legal mishap. She asked if the CAP board or membership is aware that Mordecai is trying to resolve the collection dispute. Mr. Fountain replied that he did not know for sure, but that this issue will stay on the agenda and will be discussed again at the retreat. He continued by saying that the issue with the collection needs to be resolved so the items can be properly taken care of.

Ms. Ballentine asked if the collection items can just be given back to CAP and removed from the Park. Mr. Burton replied that solution was considered in 2005. However, so many of the pieces are family pieces, that the house would not be the same without them. It is just an unfortunate circumstance that as best the City can tell the objects were legally given to the Volunteer Association which eventually became CAP. He felt like most donors probably believed they were giving to the Mordecai House and didn't even realize there was a distinction. Mr. Burton said that ultimately the City determined that it would degrade the Mordecai House to have the collection removed and simply replaced with period pieces not affiliated with the family.

Mr. Paul asked if there were legal documents stating that CAP had ownership of the collection. Mr. Burton answered that the City has acknowledged CAP's ownership of the collection as far back as 2003 well before the City took over management of the park. However no one has ever actually seen the donation and/or gift documents that CAP took from donors over the years when they took objects. CAP has never been willing to share any records for any of the objects. The title issue notwithstanding, this has always been a major impediment to staff that are trying to interpret them. Mr. Fountain stated that at the moment, the collection is not going anywhere so it needs to be properly preserved. Mr.

Burton stated that our agreement with CAP expressly states that it is CAP's responsibility to conserve and/or care for their objects. No City money or resources are supposed to be expended on this. However it has become apparent that CAP either does not have the desire and/or the ability to care for the collection. Staff has made the argument that since these items are not being cared for by the owner, and they are in city owned buildings, helping support City run programs, that we need to be expend City resources on them.

Ms. Jones asked how much money the City paid CAP for the loan. Mr. Burton said we did not pay for the loan, nor do we charge CAP to manage/store their objects. The City pays for the insurance. Mr. Ward asked if the collection was just porcelain and glass pieces. Mr. Burton said the collection also contains furniture, books, clothing, etc. Mr. Ward asked if the dining room rug was part of the collection? Mr. Burton said yes. We believe it was part of the original Little Collection and our understanding is that collection belongs to CAP.

At this time Mr. Fountain stated that it was time to move the agenda along and Mr. Koopman introduced himself as the liaison from the Parks and Recreation Greenways Advisory Board.

Ms. Freedman asked who COR rents from. Mr. Burton stated that it is a sublease from the Friends of the City of Raleigh Museum. Mr. Burton then asked staff members to give an over view of the sites.

Ms. Campo gave a brief overview of the Historic Sites for December 2012. At Mordecai there were 2,329 total visitors. Passive visitation numbers were down from last year which can probably be attributed to the colder weather this year. Trolley rentals and education programs were up. Ms. Hoffman gave a brief overview of the trolley programs and special events at Mordecai for December 2012. She stated that Mordecai Holidays and Santa's Trolley were huge successes this year. Additionally, Free Friday in January had good attendance and in February Mordecai will be running a Black History Trolley on February 16.

Mr. Dollar stated that COR had a great month in December 2012 and that it had participated in First Night. About 2,000 people came through the museum for First Night. In February COR will be doing the first community exhibit led by the North-Central Raleigh CAC. On February 17 Mr. Dollar will speak at COR on the use of DNA to unlock African-American genealogy. COR staff is also working to digitize all the images in their collection.

Mr. Burton stated that the bronze plaque for Latta has been cast by the foundry and we should be receiving it shortly. He asked if there were any questions regarding the program review.

Mr. Ward asked how the public gets the Leisure Ledger and Mr. Burton stated that it is mailed out to anyone who has participated in Parks and Recreation public programming in the past.

Ms. Ballentine stated that she was going to be meeting with Josh Ingersoll at the Pope House to do an interview about the home and the surrounding neighborhood. She also said she is working on a drawing of Wilmington Street as well. Mr. Dollar stated that he was hoping to video the interview in order to preserve it.

Mr. Fountain moved to the next piece of business concerning the nominating committee. He said he would be taking submissions for nominations and a chair elect after the retreat. Mr. Fountain asked if everyone had received a copy of the 2012 Program Review that HRMP staff had put together. Mr. Burton asked for feedback and Mr. Fountain said that it was very good but needs to be proofread. He also mentioned that it could be useful in a number of contexts. Ms. Ballentine asked that page numbers be added to the document. Mr. Ward said that there was a lot of useful information, but that the report was difficult to understand. He also mentioned that the report needs to be standardized across all sites so it is easier to grasp. Mr. Ward volunteered to work on standardizing the report if another board member would be willing to assist him. Ms. Freedman asked that a glossary of terms be added so that new board members could understand it better. Ms. Freedman said that she was going to start making a list of terms to be added to the glossary. Mr. Burton stated that the report would also benefit from a table of contents.

Mr. Paul asked if board members could see last year's annual report. Mr. Burton replied that they could, but that it was for Mordecai. At that time there was no HRM Program. Mr. Friend asked if the board was assuming the role of compiling the annual report that would go to City Council. He also asked what the board's role was and if it was more than an advisory board if it was submitting documents to City Council. Mr. Burton said that the board were advisors. What he hoped was that the HRM Advisory Board would start to take a part in creating the board work plan and maybe the annual report. Mr. Fountain stated that he wanted to board to be available to assist HRMP staff in creating the annual report.

Mr. Fountain mentioned the upcoming retreat and introduced Kevin Brice as the retreat facilitator. Mr. Brice explained he was able to take the trolley tour with the board and then asked the members what they felt like a successful retreat would look like. He asked for opinions and feedback so that he could put together an agenda so that all members feel as though the retreat is a success.

- Ms. Ballentine asked if strategic planning for the entire group would happen at the retreat.
- Mr. Fountain said that he wanted to board to get an idea of what it wanted to accomplish over the next 1-5 years and to get onto paper what the job of the board is.
- Mr. Brothers asked for a prioritized wish list from staff members for each site.
- Mr. Friend asked if other sites have long range plans because if so there was no reason to start from the very beginning. Mr. Burton said that there is a long range plan for Mordecai, but not for the other sites. Mr. Friend said it would be good for

the board to see that plan so their new ideas do not contradict with the other goals and plans.

- Mr. Ward said that he would like the board to come up with a mission statement and idea of what their job is at the retreat. Mr. Burton stated that HRM Program has a mission statement and the HRM Advisory Board's Mission should complement the program mission but that it does not have to be the same mission statement that the board will create.
- Ms. Jones asked for a list from staff of most important needs from each site, but to make sure the list does not get too long.
- Mr. Fountain stated that they also wanted new ideas from board members at the retreat as well.
- Mr. Ward said that a mission statement needs to be agreed upon at the retreat.
- Ms. Hockaday said she would like a copy of the long range and strategic plans for Mordecai. Mr. Burton said he would send the 5 year strategic plan from Mordecai but that he did not want to overwhelm them with information. He also said he did not want these documents to limit the ideas that the board has. Mr. Burton also mentioned that perhaps a 1-2 year plan was better than a 5 year plan because 5 year plans are easy to forget about.
- Mr. Ward commented that there are so many different ideas of what the board is supposed to do.
- Mr. Friend said that an entire workshop could be spent on any of the ideas previously mentioned, but the bigger problem is that the members are not in consensus about what the board should be doing.
- Mr. Coleman said he was unclear on what his and the board's role is because he wants to collectively look out for all interests and build all programs equally.
- Mr. Fountain said to Mr. Brice that there is obviously a lot of concern amongst members of what the goals and missions of the board are.
- Mr. Stacey said it is hard to focus on individual points without first deciding on one direction or goal to pursue.
- Ms. Freedman said that she would like the board to discuss how they will behave as a whole and who will speak to the press on behalf of the board as a whole when on the retreat.

Mr. Brice said he would comprise a draft agenda and send it to board members for approval. Mr. Fountain asked what additional documents members would like from staff. Mr. Fountain said the draft agenda will be sent out by next Tuesday to all board members. Mr. Fountain also said that the board might be able to come out with committees that help focus on individual issues better. Mr. Burton said staff will need time to consider the most important needs at each site. Ms. Freedman emphasized that the members wanted to hear what staff had to say in regards to needs and wants and that it is ok that it is a snapshot. Ms. Jones said she wanted to know what the collective needs of the staff are. Mr. Ward said he wanted to know what the staff thinks the board should be doing. Mr. Friend stated he wanted to hear from each staff person. Mr. Burton asked if he could get a list from staff and compile it and then send to the board. Mr. Friend agreed that would be fine.

Mr. Burton asked Mr. Brice what the relationship between the staff and board will be at the retreat. Mr. Brice said that hearing from staff will be helpful, but that staff needs to think big picture across entire program, not just individual sites. Mr. Fountain said that staff should feel free to participate at the retreat. Mr. Brice emphasized that staff participation would be especially important at the beginning to provide context.

Mr. Burton asked for clarity for what documents the board wanted from staff. Mr. Fountain said the Mordecai 2009-2014 5 year plan, the 2012 Mordecai report, the staff needs and wants by site, and a list of the staff believes the board should be doing. These should be sent to the board as soon as possible.

Mr. Paul asked if the PRGAB could be an example for the HRMPAB. Mr. Brice said that it could, but to remember that it was just one example.

Ms. Jones said that if anyone was interested in the chair elect position to please let Mr. Fountain know. Mr. Fountain adjourned the meeting at 7:43pm.