

Historic Resources and Museum Program  
Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at 6pm

Nick Fountain called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Board members in attendance were Nick Fountain, Ed Morris, Edna Rich-Ballentine, Barbara Freedman, Al Brothers, Treva Jones, Cyrus Stacey, Melissa Hockaday, Tom Ward, and Dwight Coleman. Amy Simes was present as the PRGAB liaison. Greg Paul was excused absent. Staff members in attendance were Troy Burton, Erin Campo, Brynn Hoffman, Ernest Dollar, Kimberly Puryear, and Scott Payne.

Mr. Fountain began the meeting by encourage all board members to join the friends groups for COR Museum, Mordecai Historic Park, and/or both. He also encouraged everyone to attend the Volunteer Banquet at Mordecai Historic Park on Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 6pm.

Mr. Fountain asked if there were any updates to the agenda. None were offered. He asked members to review the past meeting minutes. Ms. Freedman motioned to approve the previous minutes, Mr. Brothers seconded the motion, and all board members voted to approve the past minutes.

Mr. Fountain then asked staff to provide the program report. Mr. Dollar began with an update on the COR Museum. He stated that COR hosted the Raleigh Heritage Trail for First Friday at the museum. The event was a great success. Mr. Dollar passed around the exhibit plans for the upcoming R3 exhibit for the board members to look over. He also stated that there has been increase in educational programming at COR since last month and that staff was working with A. Brothers and Associates to design and fabricate the Briggs Hardware Exhibit. Mr. Burton also stated that the building had been approved to have a new awning put out front and that a contractor had been selected.

Mr. Brothers asked if there was a plan to make the rear entrance to the museum more accessible so it could be used as a service entrance during exhibit installations. He suggested upgrading the freight receiving area to make installation easier. Ms. Freedman asked if big panels could be unloaded on the Fayetteville side and Mr. Brothers said they could not be brought in through those doors in whole pieces. Mr. Brothers also mentioned that parking is difficult on Fayetteville Street. Mr. Burton said previously that COR has been able to get parking exemptions for work crews. Ms. Rich-Ballentine asked if the exhibit designers would be briefed prior to installation to make sure they can get all the pieces in through the door. Mr. Fountain replied that the designers have been out to museum and taken the appropriate measurements to be able to install the exhibit.

Ms. Hoffman then provided the staff update for Historic Sites. Ms. Hoffman stated that visitation at Mordecai was 2,422 in March – slightly higher than

March of 2012. 11 schools participated in education programming at the site and 759 students, teachers, and chaperones participated in these field trips. The trolley was rented 8 times in March for a total of 178 people and trolley tours ran for 5 Saturdays in March and served 174 people. Mordecai Historic Park was rented 4 times, the Tucker House was rented once, and the Borden Building was rented 4 times. Ms. Hoffman stated that the annual plant sale at Mordecai was held on April 20 and raised \$660 on the first day. Ms. Hoffman finished by stating that the contract for the construction of the new park center at the Danielson House had been awarded and construction should start in June.

Mr. Fountain asked if there were any updates at the Pope House. Ms. Rich-Ballentine stated that she and Joshua Ingersoll have recently made a short film about Dr. Pope and the house to be broadcast on the Raleigh TV network. Mr. Burton stated that Dr. Pope's diploma should soon be returning from Etherington Conservators where it is having work done. Ms. Jones asked if there is a sprinkler system in the Pope House and Mr. Burton said there is not. Ms. Rich-Ballentine stated that many of the most important historical documents were given to UNC.

Mr. Fountain then asked for an update on conservation efforts at all the sites. Mr. Dollar stated that the North Carolina Museums Council hosted a conservation workshop at COR during their annual conference. COR is currently considering what steps should be taken to protect the Raleigh City Flag so it can be used in future exhibits. Mr. Burton stated that there are currently 1,500 objects at the Pope House and there is money budgeted with the new fiscal year to do an inventory appraisal of those objects. Mr. Dollar also stated that Josh Ingersoll had made digital copies of some photographs and documents at the State Archives as well. Mr. Brothers stated concern that the jacket on display in the Andrew Johnson House might need a better conservation plan. Mr. Burton said that there should be some consideration of rotating it off exhibit and placing a replica in its place.

Mr. Burton then stated that a master plan for the Latta Site is in the CIP future planning for 2016. There would be two stages of this – creating a master plan and then providing money to initiate the first steps of the plan. Mr. Fountain asked how firm the timeline was and if there was a chance Latta would continue to get pushed back. Mr. Payne said that everyone involved was trying hard to keep it on schedule and not let it get pushed back.

Mr. Fountain asked if there were any questions concerning site updates. Mr. Ward asked if the city was paying for the new museum exhibits. Mr. Burton replied that the city and COR Friends hoped to split costs based on the operating agreement between them. The Friends group is considering an upcoming fundraising campaign to raise money for exhibits. Mr. Dollar stated that the group hoped to raise \$500,000 in 5 years to support the Core exhibit. Mr. Burton stated that for R3 the City and COR Friends were trying to meet a cost share. Mr. Ward asked if that was clearly understood between the two groups and Mr.

Burton said it had been discussed on multiple occasions. Mr. Ward asked if the plans for R3 and City Lab will be presented to a larger audience for feedback. Mr. Burton said that the plans so far had been shared with all boards as well as the exhibit design committee and City. Mr. Dollar added that the upcoming Time Warp event in June will be its first public showing. Ms. Jones asked if there should be a public meeting for the exhibit project. Mr. Fountain stated he did not believe that was needed. Mr. Burton explained that exhibits are considered programming so they do not require approval from the public and city council. Mr. Ward suggested that people might be more willing to donate if they are given input and Mr. Morris suggested asking for input from several smaller groups. Mr. Burton said that the COR Friends planned to shop the exhibit to donors and that an opportunity was there for comment and review. Ultimately if the public does not like it then they will not support the Museum. Mr. Ward asked why a local firm was not chosen to do the work. Mr. Burton replied that Riggs Ward scored the highest out of 15 firms that bid on the project.

Mr. Fountain then called for the group to break out into smaller committee groups for 30 minutes. The committees came back together at 7:15pm and Mr. Fountain asked for committee updates.

Mr. Coleman reported for the Program Committee. Mr. Coleman stated that the Latta garden day had been moved to May 4<sup>th</sup> because the previous Saturday had been too rainy. On May 4<sup>th</sup> the volunteer group will clean up the site and on May 18<sup>th</sup> the new interpretative sign will be laid. Mr. Coleman said they intend to invite local youth from the nearby public housing to help lay the bricks and to give them a brief introduction to the site and its importance. The Latta Foundation Inc. is also working on having lunch donated to the youth invited, as well as some sort of promotional item that they can take with them. In September the foundation would like to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Latta Site, hopefully in conjunction with the local African American Cultural Festival happening in Raleigh. Ms. Hockaday stated that she was going to meet with staff from Yates Mill to talk about their education programming. She also stated that she would like to create and send out a teacher survey to local teachers in order to create better education experiences for them. She also wants to look into bring STEM curriculum components into the programming at the HRMP sites.

Mr. Morris gave the report for the Collections Committee. Mr. Morris stated that the committee would like to start to meet quarterly to accession and de-accession objects in the collection. The committee is working on creating an overall accession policy and it is currently in draft form. Ms. Freedman asked if the policy would just apply to COR and Mr. Morris stated it would apply for all HRMP sites.

Mr. Brothers reported for the Communications Committee. He stated that the committee is working to create an existing communication database as a networking tool for future staff and board members. Mr. Brothers stated that in future years the committee would like to give out a History Award at the annual

Volunteer Banquet. The committee also had more discussion about branding and that Ms. Campo had updated them on the work she is doing with brochures, websites, and gov delivery for the program. Mr. Brothers also encouraged board members to consider submitting articles for the gov delivery emails that will be going out on a regular basis. Mr. Brothers and Mr. Stacey stated that the committee needs to create more awareness about Raleigh history and come up with a tag line for the program that could be used across all sites. Ms. Freedman stated that the committee wanted to create interpretative signs for every site that give passive visitors a brief idea about the history of each. Ms. Rich-Ballentine warned the committee members to learn the regulations regarding signs before they dive into the project. Mr. Fountain asked for approval for the committee to begin working on the signs. All board members were in favor. Mr. Burton asked if the mission/vision statement from the retreat had been worked on and Mr. Brothers said that it had not but that the committee would work on it in the future.

Mr. Fountain stated that there were still no nominations for new board members to fill Craig Friend's seat. He stated that if the board did not nominate someone that City Council would do it without their suggestion.

Mr. Fountain then moved onto announcements. Yates Mill County Park is hosting its annual meeting on May 1 from 5:30-8pm. The Parks and Recreation Fred Fletcher Volunteer Awards is Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The City Council – HRMPAB – COR Friends – RHDC will have a mixer on Thursday, May 16 at 5:30pm to introduce a new documentary project.

Ms. Hoffman stated that on May 15 from 6-9pm, Parks and Recreation will be hosting a visioning session focused around Historic Resources in conjunction with the ongoing System Plan. The session is open to the public and anyone interested in giving their opinion regarding historic resources is encouraged to attend.

Mr. Fountain stated that the next meeting will be Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. He then asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Jones motioned to adjourn and Ms. Freedman seconded it. All board members were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.