

Historic Resources and Museum Program
Advisory Board Meeting
Tucker House
November 20, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Nick Fountain.

Advisory Board members in attendance: Al Brothers, Dwight Coleman, Barbara Freedman, Nick Fountain, Treva Jones, Joe Mobley, Ed Morris, Greg Paul , Amy Simes, Tom Ward. HRMP staff members in attendance: Troy Burton, Ernest Dollar, Kimberly Floyd, Brynn Hoffman. Council member in attendance: John Odom.

Mr. Fountain called for the approval of minutes. Al moved and Greg seconded the motion approving the minutes.

Old Business

Program Report

Mr. Burton gave a brief report. The program took delivery of Polly the Trolley this last week and planning to run Polly Saturday in the Raleigh Christmas Parade. Board asked to join, report to Mordecai at 8:00am to ride trolley. Staff met with construction team for Mordecai Park Center, confirmed commitment and still plan to finish the project in April 2014. The board and staff need to begin thinking of opening event and ceremony in interpretive center. Ideally, ribbon cutting in May for new park center at Mordecai.

When we meet in January both Pullen and Chavis will be under the program area. Richard Costello is coming with his staff and will give us a program review of what all they do in January.

Treva Jones inquired on what the board responsibility to Pullen and Chavis would be. Troy Burton stated that Pullen and Chavis attractions include food service, the amusements, the playground, and picnic shelters. These sites would be managed within the HRM program and thus be under the board's advisement. Pullen is the oldest public park in North Carolina and many several amusements are historic. Mr. Fountain asked what is behind the decision to move these attractions to the HRM Program. Mr. Burton answered that the department determined the historic attractions and singular experience were best managed by the HRM program. Staff believed we need to continue to develop these programs.

COR Museum/Pope House Report

Ernest Dollar gave the report for the COR Museum and Pope House. The Museum had its Madmen Party on November 8. This was a 1960s themed party with a lecture on postmodernist homes by George Smart with the Triangle Modernist Houses. COR

Museum had over 3000 visitors in September. The artifact committee met at the museum and made recommendations on 40 entries of artifacts. Museum staff held a strategic retreat on Monday the 18th of November to discuss infrastructure. Education programs have picked up. The Museum's long range goals are to work on a two year exhibit plan. We plan to come to the advisory board on how everyone can help with the five year planning session coming in March. We are working closer with the Friends and have the next exhibit set in stone, African American WWII Veterans. This exhibit will open with the annual Time Warp fundraiser, June 6pm, 70th anniversary of D Day.

Historic Sites Report

Brynn Hoffman gave the Historic Sites report. Haunted Mordecai in October consisted of the trolley 9 times over three nights with 252 participants and on October 26, lantern tours with 220 participants, as well as 630 people for the free festival (costume contest, paint pumpkins, music, etc...) on the lawn. September and October are the busiest months for rentals. Trolley rented 12 times.

Mr. Fountain called for questions. Tom Ward asked about lead abatement in the Tucker house. Troy responded that there is no deadline, but as funds come available we take care of buildings. It is usually just the exterior not the interior and they will take the paint entirely off if it is a full abatement.

John Odom asked about expectations for upcoming months, November, December.

Mr. Fountain moves to discuss old business. Al Brothers discusses the completion of the Annual Report. Al Brothers gives CD to museum, to print and bind. This report was sent to members at 3:00 that afternoon. Presenting to council December 3rd. Get the agenda the week of will not know exactly where we are until then.

The upcoming Park Center at Mordecai was on the Raleigh Television Network. Troy Burton and Nick Fountain set up outside of the center and discussed the upcoming building. The link will be coming to members from Troy Burton.

Troy states that the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site in Greenville, TN renewed loan for Andrew Johnson artifacts for the birthplace.

Discussed liaison designations, asked to carry it forward, nothing new for right now.

New Business

Troy discusses the Capital City Trail. The Capital City trail is an existing trail of signs around the city that has been used multiple ways. Raleigh Historic Development Commission has approached the HRM program to become the program owner. It was originally done in 1962 by the Women's Club and Raleigh Historic Sites Commission. The trail included 45 sites and was 25 miles long. Troy passed around printout of original trail. In 1983 the Women's Club, the Raleigh Historic Properties Commission, Chamber

of Commerce, Mordecai, Square Historical Society updated it and had 88 sites running. Signs are still all around the city in relatively good shape. The most recent version was done in 2000 by the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission, and Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau, 111 Sites, unknown length. It went outside of downtown all the way to Umstead Park.

In 2014 potential partners: Raleigh Historic Development Commission, Historic Resources and Museums Program, Women's Club, Raleigh CVB. HRM would own and manage: maintenance, additions, corrections, etc... RHDC would provide material generated over the years.

Troy introduced the Trail project and wanted to know if HRM board was interested. This would mean identifying participants or creating a committee, developing a timeline, and budget piece. Potentially have the markers on a QR system and create an app. RHDC invited to February meeting to discuss.

Greg asked who has responsibility now. Troy responded, "no one." Ed, "what would RHDC, CVB, and the Women's Club do, budget assistance?" Troy, "maybe these groups can assist in funding and can sit at the table for planning." Troy did point out that RHDC wants the sign to be the same and RHDC would create and provide the app.

Many board members would like to shift committee assignments, some wanted to shift and work somewhere else. The old committee list was passed around and board members put their name where they would like it to be for the coming year and had to give it back by the end of the meeting. Mr. Fountain will look at it and make sure all committees are covered.

Nick discussed work plan more, flagged a few things that were added to the broad items already discussed. Work plan discusses a bit about the retreat last year, but he did not put dollars in. As you think about committees, work plan will show the work involved. The Capital City Trail was added under Long Range Planning. Mr. Fountain asked board to think about ownership of the Briggs Building or leave well enough alone.

The advisory board broke out into committees.

Program Committee

Dwight and Kimberly met. The committee is behind due to member absences. Passed draft on to Kimberly. Kimberly will be assigning tasks to HRM Program committee as well as HRM staff. She will set deadlines for January and February. They plan to have the volunteer banquet the last Thursday in April, the 24th. Keep it at Mordecai since awards system is changing. The food will also stay the same with a sit down dinner. Nick suggested having it as part of the ribbon cutting for the Park Center. Staff felt like they may be two very different events.

Committee Meeting

Brynn presented for AI. Annual report has been passed along to Kimberly at COR Museum for printing. They are working on a document to consider adjunct members, planning on bringing in January of groups we would like to reach out to.

Strategic Planning Committee

Nick spoke for the committee. They would like to have a retreat in February. They will send out several Saturdays to choose from in order to get a date settled. We will not tour all the sites again, but will visit Pullen and Chavis, new additions to HRM. They explored the issue of lead abatement and the need to get back together with CAP on the Mordecai collection. Want to try and come up with ways to settle the Mordecai collection. They also discussed the work plan and want to set priorities among all of these items in order to report on them more clearly at the end of the year. Each committee needs to spend time looking at their work plan in order to make progress at this retreat.

Collections Committee

The committee reviewed accession/de-accession document. They made a few changes and will meet again in January and February to finalize. Ed spoke about the accession/de-accession meeting at the COR Museum and said staff had it very well organized on tables. Document not back from City Attorney yet and it will be needed to direct proceeds from selling. Master list will go to Troy to be signed off.

Events/Announcements:

Festival of Wreaths

December 4th, 6pm – 8pm.

This is a new fundraiser for Friends of COR Museum. They will be raffling off wreaths from over 25 local artists. This is a ticketed event, \$20.00. Food and drink will be provided.

Holiday Express-Pullen Park

Dec 6-8, 13-15

They decorate the park in lights and turn it into a winter wonderland. This is a ticketed event; tickets can be bought on RecLink. They do sell out. There are different acts each night and performances.

Mordecai Holidays, December 13-15th

They decorate the house for holidays representing generations. They use fresh greenery. On the afternoon of 13, 15, and all day 14th there is an open house where visitors walk around at their leisure. It is free. On the evening of the 14th from 5 to 10pm there are holiday lantern tours with Burning Coal. They represent family members from different time periods and it is ticketed at \$5. Santa's trolley is already sold out.

Mr. Fountain asked "if it is sold out can we offer it more?" Brynn discussed not having the staff to cover it. Mr. Fountain would like to reference what sells out at the City council meeting. Troy pointed out that staff are continually evaluating, but have reached capacity. Ed also pointed out that large events can detract from programming that happens day to day.

Barbara asked about current vacancies in the department. Troy states that we have not received authorization to fill the curator position. But, the Historic Sites Management position should be filled soon.

There is no December meeting; the next meeting is January 22, at 6:00pm at Tucker.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.