

HRM Advisory Board
October 23, 2013
Borden Building

HRM Advisory Board members in attendance: Al Brothers, Nick Fountain, Barbara Freedman, Treva Jones, Melissa Hockaday, Cyrus Stacey, Ed Morris, Joe Mobley, and Greg Paul

Excused Absent: Edna Rich-Ballentine, Tom Ward and Dwight Coleman

HRMP Staff members in attendance: Scott Payne, Troy Burton, Brynn Hoffman, Kimberly Floyd

Mr. Fountain called the meeting to order at 6:12pm.

Mr. Fountain moved to approve minutes from September meeting, Mr. Brothers seconded the motion. All board members approved and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Fountain asked Mr. Burton for a staff report. Mr. Burton announced that Erin Campo has resigned her position as the Collections Specialist for HRMP. The position is now vacant. Mr. Burton stated that at this time he has not received authorization to hire the Collections Specialist position. Staff is hopeful the position will be authorized to be rehired. The position will be expanded to serve the entire program, not just specific sites. Treva Jones asked for a status of the vacant manager position at Mordecai. Mr. Burton answered that phone interviews begin tomorrow. In person interviews will begin the next week and hopefully the position will be filled soon. Brynn Hoffman is currently serving as the Acting Manager of Historic Sites.

Mr. Fountain stated that Ms. Campo has worked for the program for 7 years and put a lot of blood, sweat, and tears into the program. Mr. Fountain asked the board to consider adopting a resolution of appreciation for years of hard work for Ms. Campo.

On Thursday, October 5th the new sign at the Latta University site was dedicated and finalized. Mr. Burton stated that there was a very good turnout and a nice program. This was a great collaborative effort on the part of the Latta Foundation, the City of Raleigh, and the public. Mr. Fountain asked when the master plan process would begin at Latta. Mr. Burton stated that currently there is CIP funding identified for a Latta master plan in Fiscal Year 2016. In Fiscal year 2017 there is some placeholder money for implementation. Staff are attempting to move up master plan funding for Latta into FY 2015. However staff do not support deprioritizing existing FY2015 projects such as the COR permanent exhibit, the roof of the Mordecai main house and kitchen, and Pope House repairs. Mr. Burton explained that if master planning is moved into FY 2015, it will be because the Department has the additional capacity to do so and not in lieu of these higher priorities.

Mr. Fountain asked when would be a good time for the advisory board to write something up regarding these projects and pass it up the line? Staff stated that it remained the board's discretion how and when they chose to communicate.

Mr. Paul asked what has been the customary amount of money usually budgeted for CIP projects. Mr. Burton stated that CIP fluctuates based on the City's capacity to fund. Historic Properties CIP has been as high as 300k and for several years there has been no money in CIP. In FY2014 there were \$35,000 for historic property exhibits and \$25,000 for historic properties improvements.

Ms. Hoffman gave the historic sites section report. The Interpretive Center project is moving along well. Ms. Hoffman stated that if board members wished to see the site they could contact her or Mr. Burton to schedule a time.

Ms. Floyd gave the museum section report. The COR Museum was involved in everything for Raleigh Main Event. Over 2,000 people visited the museum during the weekend of the Bluegrass Festival. The museum recently opened a new bluegrass exhibit and R3 exhibit. School groups and rentals are both starting to pick up. COR Friends are working in conjunction with staff to develop and present the next exhibit in the spring on WWII and will couple it with the Time Warp event. Carter Worthy and Sean Gyger are chairing the events associated with the exhibit opening and would like a board member to work with them on the WWII event, exhibit, and Time Warp.

Mr. Fountain turned the meeting to old business. The Communications Committee met last week to review the Annual Report to City Council. Mr. Burton has distributed the report to all board members. Mr. Fountain stated that the report needed to be finished in time to present to City Council on November 19th. Mr. Hoffman is responsible for putting together packets for each council member.

Mr. Fountain then stated that the board needed to figure out some liaisons from other boards to join us and be contacts as necessary. There are a lot of other bodies and organizations that the advisory board could have more formalized relationships with. The board needs to come up with a list of where to pull liaisons from and then board members can volunteer to create these relationships. As a first step, Mr. Fountain asked members to please think of the groups within whom we might have liaisons with and bring to next meeting. Mr. Fountain stated that it will be moved over to communications committee, but will need staff input for this.

Mr. Fountain then stated that the Strategic Planning Committee met earlier. He said that the board needs to consider whether to have another retreat this spring and developing a work plan for the group. Some things to consider concerning strategic planning are the Mordecai collection, the volunteer program, and other projects. The committee felt like staff should conduct a program analysis of the Tucker House to determine highest and best use. There is a lead abatement

project required at Tucker and the cost is more than the value of the structure. The Cedar Street property behind the Danielson house is for sale and the committee believes staff should consider if there is an opportunity to acquire this property for the program. A study needs to be done of the property to see what might be done there. If the city had that property in one form or another, it might open the door to be able to cul-de-sac the street for the park center and or for parking.

The advisory board then broke out into committees

Ms. Hockaday reported for the program committee. She stated that Mr. Paul agreed to serve as the board liaison to the COR Friends for the WWII exhibit and Time Warp event. The committee is working on things for the volunteer banquet in spring. They are also creating sign-up sheets for board members to volunteer at special events for the program.

Mr. Morris reported for the collections committee. He stated that on Friday, November 1 the committee is meeting to recommend items for accession and/or de-accession at the COR museum.

Mr. Brothers reported for communications committee and stated that they had worked the kinks out of the annual report. Ms. Freedman will do a little bit of a rewrite and call the State Archives to get an old picture of City Council. Mr. Brothers will work on a cover page. Mr. Stacey and Ms. Hoffman will work together to get the packet put together. Mr. Brothers stated that the next item is to work on list of adjunct/liaison members. If anyone has a group they would like to add, please send it to Mr. Brothers afterwards.

Mr. Brothers stated that Amy Simes asked to announce the upcoming RHDC historic Bike Ride from 11-2 on Nov. 2. Mr. Burton also stated that on November 8th at Borden Billy and Peggy Griffin are doing a lecture from 12:30-2pm about the Methodist Orphanage.

Ms. Freedman stated upcoming meeting will be on November 20th with no meeting in December. The next meeting will be at the Tucker House.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.