

Historical Resources and Museums Program Advisory Board

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Borden Building

Minutes

At 6:06pm Nick Fountain called the Advisory Board meeting to order. Advisory Board Members in attendance were Treva Jones, Cyrus Stacey, Tom Ward, Greg Paul, Al Brothers, Nick Fountain, Barbara Freedman, and Dwight Coleman. Craig Friend, Melissa Hockaday, Ed Morris, and Edna Rich-Ballentine were excused absent. Staff members Troy Burton, Erin Campo, Ernie Dollar, Scott Payne, and Kim Puryear were present.

Mr. Fountain allowed the members a few minutes to review the minutes from January's meeting. Mr. Paul moved to approve the January minutes. Ms. Jones seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fountain asked for the HRM Program report. Sites Staff reported that repairs to the trolley wheelchair lift were completed in January. Plaster work in the North Bedroom of the Mordecai House and in St. Mark's Chapel was completed the first part of February. Mordecai hosted Free Friday on January 18 and the number of participants was doubled from last year. School group numbers were also doubled from January of 2012. The Black History Trolley ran on February 16. The day was very snowy, so attendance was not high, but feedback on the program was very good. The Borden Building and the Tucker House continue to be rented on a regular basis. Thomas Edwards is the new part-time event manager at the Borden Building. Brynn Hoffman briefly spoke about the upcoming events – Egg Hunt on March 23, Tea, Tours, and the Trolley on April 13, Volunteer Banquet on April 25.

Mr. Brothers asked if a collaborative First Friday program had been developed using COR, Mordecai, and the trolley. Troy Burton and Erin Campo responded that we did try this program last fall. It was difficult to drive the trolley on

Fayetteville Street. The demographic that attends First Friday also did not seem motivated to visit Mordecai.

Museum staff reported the COR Museum had now been reopened for 6 months. The staff recently met with Riggs Ward from Richmond to discuss the exhibit design. A portion of the exhibit will hopefully be ready to open in July of 2013. The COR Museum recently received a collection from the Red Cross with some interesting artifacts included in it. Since the COR Museum has reopened, over 100 kids have visited the museum to participate in education programs. In February COR hosted a community exhibit to celebrate Black History Month. On April 13 COR will host a Civil War walking tour of Downtown Raleigh at 10am. The event is free to members.

Mr. Fountain asked if there were any other updates. Mr. Burton said there were no other updates and asked for questions. There were no questions.

Mr. Fountain then moved to old business. He asked the members to take a moment to look over the notes from the Board Retreat on February 2. Mr. Burton stated that the notes from the retreat suggest a revised vision and mission statement for the Board is needed. If the Advisory Board wants to revise these, they will have to go back to City Council for approval. Mr. Ward said that the statement never mentions that Raleigh's culture is important and he sees that as a weakness. Mr. Burton asked if Mr. Ward was referring to the vision or the mission statement, and Mr. Ward replied that he was referring to both. Mr. Brothers pointed out that on page five of the retreat notes it states "to further Raleigh's cultural development." Mr. Burton asked if the document should go to a committee for "tweaking." Mr. Fountain responded that it should. Ms. Freedman said she agreed with Mr. Ward's comment. Mr. Fountain asked if there were any further comments that could be referred to the communications committee, but there were no other comments.

Mr. Fountain then asked for feedback on the retreat and if the board felt it should be repeated. Ms. Jones said that a 4-5 hour retreat once a year would be good. Mr. Paul said he thought it was very productive. Mr. Brothers suggested bringing back old members to retreats as well. Mr. Fountain said the board could act with a motion to make the retreat an annual occurrence. Mr. Brothers motioned for an annual retreat and trolley ride to all sites. Ms. Freedman and Mr. Coleman seconded the motion. Mr. Fountain asked if February is a good time of the year to do conduct the retreat. Mr. Stacey suggested synching the retreat with new members cycling on to the board. Mr. Burton said that September is the board rotation date. Mr. Fountain asked if October would be good for the retreat. Ms. Jones said it might be better in winter months. After discussion a motion was adopted “to conduct an annual board retreat with a program trolley tour. Scheduling would be managed later through the programs committee.” The motion was approved unanimously.

Advisory Board Members and staff members broke out into committee meetings at 6:36pm. The committees met individually for approximately 30 minutes. Mr. Fountain then asked the committees to give brief reports about what was discussed.

Mr. Brothers reported for the communications committee: Mr. Brothers suggested a box lunch meeting with the committee members and members from the City’s marketing department to discuss branding. Mr. Brothers stated that the group needed to work on a catch phrase for the group as a whole. He also stated that the committee needed to “flesh out” relationships with other groups and organizations. The communications committee also recommended presenting an annual History Award and participating in an annual Raleigh History Day Event. The committee also needs to work on marketing through social media. Finally, Mr. Brothers would like to see the group produce a traveling Raleigh History exhibit.

Ms. Jones reported for the collections committee: Ms. Jones stated that an accession and de-accession plan needed to be established that was cohesive across all sites. The committee also needs to seek out artifacts for the sites that are actually needed. Ms. Jones requested that staff members provide the current policies to the committee members so they will have a starting place. Ms. Jones also said that the group needed to seek aid from the community and make people aware that we are seeking out certain artifacts. Finally, the collections committee needs to work on improving the current storage facilities at each site. Mr. Burton asked if a comprehensive list of materials experts to assist board members would be useful and Ms. Jones replied that it would be useful.

Mr. Coleman reported for the programs committee: Mr. Coleman said the group needed to work towards implementing programs at non-staffed sites and to reach out to the community outside of HRMP. The committee also recommended having a social for board members, staff, and family next year the evening before the retreat.

Mr. Fountain then moved on to new business. The Raleigh Historic Development Commission has invited HRMP board members to attend a mixer on March 21 from 5:30-7:30pm at the Mahler Gallery on Fayetteville Street. Mr. Fountain then reminded everyone that the next meeting is Wednesday, March 27.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.