

Historic Resources and Museums Programs  
Advisory Board  
Wednesday, March 27, 2013

Nick Fountain called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Advisory board members in attendance were Dwight Coleman, Nick Fountain, Barbara Freedman, Treva Jones, Ed Morris, Greg Paul, Cyrus Stacey, Tom Ward, and PRGAB liaison Amy Simes. Staff members in attendance were Troy Burton, Erin Campo, Ernest Dollar, Brynn Hoffman and Kim Puryear.

Mr. Fountain started the meeting by welcoming Amy Simes from the Parks Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board as the liaison to the Historical Resources and Museum Advisory Board. Mr. Fountain announced Craig Friend had resigned his position on the advisory board. Mr. Fountain asked everyone to look over the proposed agenda and asked if there were any additions. No additions were offered.

Mr. Fountain then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Jones motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Paul seconded the motion. The motion to approve the previous minutes passed.

Mr. Fountain then asked for the staff report. Mr. Burton distributed an advance copy of the first HRM Program newsletter. The newsletter will be sent out three times a year for friends, members, and volunteers. He explained the Mordecai Square Association and COR Friends group shared program benefits but that each group's revenue supported their mission. Member benefits applied throughout the program, no matter which location you signed up at. Ms. Jones stated that she really appreciated that a memorial had been written about Sarah Williamson in the most recent newsletter.

Mr. Burton then gave a brief update on the budget for the new fiscal year beginning in July 2013. The program is requesting a new position be added that would start in January 2014. The position would be a combined Curatorial/Collections Program Manager. Mr. Burton also stated that money is currently identified to begin object stewardship for collections irrespective of ownership.

Mr. Burton announced that the Parks and Recreation Department is undergoing another reorganization. Part of the reorganization will be a departmental name change to Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources. The planned date for the transition is after July 1<sup>st</sup> and must be approved by City Council. Ms. Jones asked if cemeteries would be coming into the program and Mr. Burton said no.

Ms. Campo gave the historic sites update. In February 1,294 people participated in Mordecai Historic Park programs. Mordecai was rented once with 25 people, but the chapel was closed the majority of the month for construction. The Tucker

House was rented 5 times for a total of 90 people. The Borden Building was rented 2 times for a total of 75 people. The Raleigh Trolley was rented 6 times for a total of 201 people. Ms. Hoffman stated that there were 57 educational programs for 9 schools for a total of 398 students in February. On March 2 there were War of 1812 re-enactors onsite for militia muster demonstrations. On March 23 Mordecai hosted an Egg Hunt and there were approximately 500 people in attendance.

Mr. Ward stated that the Leisure Ledger where programs are advertised is overwhelming and that it would be helpful for our programs to have their own section. Ms. Campo replied that in the past we did have a section for cultural events but there was not enough events to support an entire section. Mr. Burton stated that this was worth re-examining and perhaps something the HRMPAB could address within the marketing committee.

Mr. Dollar then gave an update for the museums and handed out a report. For the month of March the COR museum has had roughly 1,500 visitors with 170 of those visitors being from school groups. The COR Museum is partnering with RHDC, Preservation North Carolina, and the Raleigh Television Network on a project to document the moving of the Nathaniel Crabtree Jones House in North Raleigh. COR staff met with film maker, Steven Channing, about a potential partnership for an upcoming documentary of Raleigh from 1945 to the present. Ms. Puryear stated that COR launched two new educational programs, the "Raleigh Reads" program and a series of guided walking tours of downtown. The programs are offered on Saturday mornings. Mr. Dollar finished by stating that COR would be presenting a Civil War walking tour of downtown and that on April 5 the Raleigh Heritage Trail would be participating in a group event at the museum for First Friday.

Mr. Fountain then broke the advisory board out into committees. The separate committees met individually for approximately 30 minutes. The advisory board then came back together and each committee reported on what it had discussed.

Mr. Coleman presented the information from the program committee. The program committee discussed ways to increase registration for events. The most obvious is to do more to inform the public about upcoming events at the sites. The committee also discussed putting together a program to present the new sign and monument at the Latta University Site. Nothing final has been decided yet.

Ms. Hoffman reported for the communications committee. Ms. Hoffman stated that she would be contacting the Parks and Recreation marketing team to discuss how much flexibility the program has for adjusting and changing logos and branding. The committee also is going to create a spreadsheet to be used as a recording devise for all partnerships in order to keep track for future board members. Mr. Burton suggested that the committee focus on creating a cultural section in the leisure ledger and getting a list and content together to be sent out over the "gov delivery" list serve system.

Ms. Jones reported for the collections committee. The committee still needs accession and de-accession policies from staff members in order to create a cohesive policy across all sites. The committee also reported that there needs to be more storage space for artifacts currently in the collection. Staff are half way through accessioning artifacts currently in the COR collection. They are bringing in Dusty Westcott to help with the artifacts since he used to be a curator at the museum. Mr. Dollar also mentioned that COR recently received a large collection of Red Cross artifacts.

Mr. Fountain and Mr. Morris reported for the nominations committee. Since Dr. Friend resigned, there is a spot on the board that needs to be filled rather quickly. Mr. Morris stated that the board needed to decide if they wanted to nominate another academic, someone from the community, etc. At this point no decisions have been made by the nominating committee. Mr. Fountain asked Mr. Burton to compile a list of past board members and to provide a list of which members would be rotating off the board in the fall in order to know how many vacancies will be occurring this year.

Mr. Fountain then asked all board members to make time to come to the volunteer banquet on April 25 at Mordecai Historic Park.

Mr. Burton announced that a mixer will be held on Thursday, May 16 for the different boards that were invited to the recent mixer at the Mahler Gallery. This mixer will be to discuss the upcoming film documentary project.

Mr. Fountain mentioned that he recently had lunch with a board member from Yates Mill County Park and the park had over 100,000 visitors last year. He mentioned that this is a good goal for HRMP sites to work towards. He stated that the next board meeting will be on April 24.

Mr. Fountain then asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Jones motioned to adjourn. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.