Historic Resources and Museum Advisory Board Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 6pm Borden Building

Advisory Board members in attendance were Cyrus Stacey, Barbara Freedman, Treva Jones, Melissa Hockaday, Greg Paul, Edna Ballentine, Nick Fountain, Amy Simes, Joe Mobley, Ed Morris, and Tom Ward.

Staff members in attendance were Troy Burton, Ernest Dollar, Kimberly Floyd, Douglas Porter, Brynn Hoffman, Richard Costello, Marvin Howell, and Greg Thompson.

Mr. Fountain called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Mr. Fountain asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Paul motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Freedman seconded the motion. All board members approved.

Mr. Fountain asked for a program update from Mr. Burton. Mr. Burton introduced the staff members for Historic Amusements: Richard Costello, Marvin Howell, and Greg Thompson. Mr. Burton then gave a brief program update, highlighting that admission is up at all sites and that the hiring process in under way for the curator of collections position.

Mr. Dollar gave a brief update for Museums. He stated that attendance was about 1800 on New Year's Eve and that he and Ms. Floyd are in the process of hiring 2 new part time staff members. Upcoming events at the museum include the opening of the Capital Cartography exhibit, the new Jr. Interpreters program, and the Latta Foundation exhibit in February.

Ms. Hoffman gave a brief update for the Sites. She stated that Mr. Porter had come on board as the new Manager of Historic Sites. Additionally, work is scheduled to be complete on the Park Center building in April, with a grand opening reception sometime in May. Ms. Hoffman also stated that registration for summer camp would begin on February 3, 2014.

Mr. Fountain then asked Mr. Costello to give an introduction into the historic amusements program. Mr. Costello introduced both Chavis Park and Pullen Park. He described the attractions at both sites and gave an explanation as to why they are considered historic. Mr. Howell then gave the history of both sites, stating that Pullen Park was opened in 1887 and Chavis Park was opened in 1937. In 2013 there were 800,000 riders at Pullen Park and 11,000 riders at Chavis Park. Mr. Thompson discussed the programming at both sites, highlighting

Holiday Express as their biggest event. He stated that last year Pullen Park did about \$1.2 million in revenue and about \$400,000 in expenses. Mr. Thompson explained that most of the revenue goes back into the general fund to support other Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources facilities and programs. The floor was opened for questions from the board. Some discussion followed regarding both Pullen Park and Chavis Park.

Mr. Fountain then moved the meeting onto old business. He stated that the Capital City Trail project would be moved into the Communications Committee. The effort to purchase the Mordecai Collection was being moved to the Collections Committee. The planning of a board retreat was moved into the Program Committee. The lead abatement project at Tucker and discussion of other possible uses of the property were moved into the Strategic Committee. Mr. Fountain stated that committees might need to start meeting at times outside the monthly board meetings in order to get tasks accomplished. He then asked the board members and staff to break out into their assigned committees.

Mr. Paul gave the report for the Strategic Committee. He stated that the committee would begin to discuss why the City owns certain properties and consider that as part of the collections policy for the future. He also stated that the committee would begin to discuss a recommendation strategy for acquiring historic properties in the future.

Ms. Freedman gave the report for the Communications Committee. She stated that the committee would begin to meet outside of the normal monthly meetings in order to accomplish the tasks on their list.

Mr. Morris said that the Collections Committee would also begin to meet outside the scheduled monthly board meetings.

Mr. Fountain stated that there is not yet a facilitator scheduled for a board retreat this spring. He asked board members if they needed to have a facilitator. Mr. Burton asked what the goals would be for this year's retreat. Some discussion happened and it was decided that the retreat would be used to set goals and priorities for this year based on the work plan. Ms. Hockaday recommended visiting the new facilities during this time.

Ms. Freedman asked Mr. Burton what the role of the advisory board is. Mr. Burton replied that it was to advise staff, make recommendations, and to help to fundraise. Ms. Freedman asked if the board was advisory to City Council and Mr. Burton said that was correct.

Mr. Burton then announced the upcoming events for the program area. Mr. Fountain asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Freedman motioned to adjourn and Ms. Jones seconded it. All board members were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.