

# JACKSON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

## MINUTES

<b>Date:</b> May 21, 2024								
<b>Time Begin:</b> 5:18 pm								
<b>Time End:</b> 5:42 pm								
<b>Location:</b> Jackson County Public Library, Genealogy Study Room								
Members	Present	Absent		Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Susan Leveille	X		Jane Eastman	X		Michael Moore	X	
Bill Crawford	X		Luther Jones	X		<i>Vacant</i>		
Brandon Core	X		Pam Meister	X				
Celeste Pratt		X	Beth Parris	X				

**Staff Present:**

Michael Poston, Planning Director  
 Allison Kelley, Administrative Assistant III

**Call to Order and Quorum Check**

Vice Chair Beth Parris called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m. and a quorum was present.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Michael Moore made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Brandon Core seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Luther Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from March 19, 2024. Pam Meister made a motion to second the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Public Comment (3 minutes per speaker)**

There were no public comments.

**New Business**

**a) Chair and Vice Chair Nominations**

Michael Poston stated that Brandon Core was interested in serving as chair for the Commission, unless there was someone else interested in serving. With no one else interested in being nominated for Chair, *Luther Jones made a motion for Brandon Core as Chair for the Commission. Michael Moore seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Beth Parris made a motion to nominated Luther Jones as Vice Chair. Jane Eastman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

**b) Mountain Heritage Day Discussion**

Mr. Poston stated he had gathered from Anna Harkins that the group would like to be a participant in Mountain Heritage Day again, and we have had some good experiences there in the last couple of years, and we are planning on making those arrangements. He

presented a printout version of the Story Map that the intern created that is an accessible online map, but there is really not an ability for us to digitally display when we are out in the field because the map does not have an offline component, meaning if we are not connected to the internet we cannot pull it up and make it interactive. Therefore, we will have something in this light and they may find a better way to present the information, whether it be actual storyboards or something of that nature. In addition, he stated we would like to focus our attention on this as it highlights all of our national register, and then campus, which will be interesting given the location of the Mountain Heritage Day. He inquired if the Commission had anything else they may be interested in thinking about for the booth as we still have a couple of months to game plan here and then Ms. Harkins will be back for the June meeting to get into the details of the tabling and things that we want to do. In addition, he stated we will have the coloring pages of the different buildings from around the county for the kids and big kids.

Ms. Leveille inquired if they would have the little tiny cars for the drive-through roadmap display. Mr. Jones stated he would bring the cars again.

Mr. Core stated that brochure last year that highlighted all of the National Register properties he felt was a big hit. In addition, he felt the year before it was the question that people had was where can I go to see these properties, and he felt people latched onto that and were genuinely impressed.

Ms. Meister stated she had information about Mountain Heritage Day and it is the 50th anniversary, and the university is pouring major resources into this and there is not only going to be a regular festival, but they are going to go back to having a free concert at night. She stated she was on the planning committee, and now a subcommittee to discuss the whole history of the 50 years of Mountain Heritage Day. In addition, she stated she did mention how much we loved our booth space last year as it was right next to the main stage and where people would stop to talk to us, and they loved the brochure. Ms. Meister stated a question we got all the time was if they could go see the historic buildings, and she thinks that it would be a good thing to concentrate on anything that they can get into. She stated she knew for a fact that both the Appalachian Women's Museum is working really hard to try to get a part-time staff member in there to have it open more often, and they are committed now to being open on Saturdays at least. In addition, she stated you can go over to the Balsam Mountain Inn, they have got a restaurant going now and they are doing jam sessions on Tuesday nights, and she does not know what is going on with Jarrett House but that one might be open by then. Mr. Poston stated they have not had workers out there recently, and he does not know exactly what the holdup is for them, but they are still in progress.

Ms. Meister stated she thinks that what we could do and what we should do is go to those organizations and say, give us some material and we will put this stuff in front of thousands of people for you. It would not be extra work for the Commission, but it would be a way that we could be promoting our properties that people could go see. In addition, she stated Judaculla Rock is another place that is absolutely accessible and they could have

directions to the site. Ms. Meister inquired if there are cemeteries that people should go see.

Ms. Leveille stated she thinks that there might be another option they could consider, which is to have that organization such as the Jarrett House and the owner Chris Ellsworth stand outside with all of the doors locked and bolted, and say, welcome to this building and give the history. She stated the location of the Jarrett House is very significant to the history of the County, because it is located on the railroad and that is what opened up this County, and lots of other places along the line. In addition, she stated before the railroad got here you got around by horseback, and where it is located along the railroad track, the river, and along some highways that were built along Cherokee trails that connected communities, those sorts of things did not happen in New York City, they happen around here.

Mr. Poston stated they may want to look at that as its own type of project and if there is a day where we can promote folks to go into these places. In addition, he stated based on the responses the brochure was a hit and we still have a small supply of those left and we will do a reprint. The brochure tells you if the place is opened to the public and we will go back before we reprint and confirm if that status has change because we do not want to send people to places that are not going to be open. In addition, he stated they would also focus on the Historic Upper Campus of Western Carolina University Story Map. Mr. Poston inquired if there was anything that we did not do last year that you may want to see that may be beneficial in explaining and bringing in folks as we talked about the mountain heritage and how that ties into our cultural heritage here.

Mr. Jones stated a lot of people that are going to that are going to be coming back to Sylva. He stated the new bathrooms are supposed to look similar to the old train station and maybe that can be with whatever we are doing. They could highlight where the train station was and how important it was to the town as Sylva is here because of the train station and the county seat moved here because the original train station was in Dillsboro which is one the railroad built. In addition, he stated E.R. Hampton is the one who pushed to have the train station in Sylva built and that is why it was changed that plus two years in a row, they had a flood down in Dillsboro in 1904 or 1905. Mr. Jones stated there was another one they very next year and then another couple of years after that, so that is why everything shifted back up this way.

Ms. Parris inquired if we have the historic walk brochures, and she knows Dillsboro's is not correct, but she thinks Sylva's might be. Mr. Poston stated they would work with the chamber and those folks on if they have some materials that they would like for us to display and handout. In addition, he stated they would see if there are any materials from some of our historic sites to bring, bring our brochures back and make sure they are up to date and accurate, have the coloring sheets, having the story map information, and having the large printouts of our map that kind of shows the road that goes around. In addition, he asked the Commission to start thinking about it over the next few weeks if there is anything

else they would like to add as by the June meeting they would need to know what they are doing for the festival so staff can begin making preparations. In addition, he stated they would also schedule volunteers to help during the day as they have in the previous festivals.

**c) Historic Preservation Month Update**

May is National Historic Preservation Month and Mr. Poston stated that Ms. Harkins has pre-programmed Facebook posts for Historic Preservation Month to highlight our historic properties in the County. There will be scheduled posts on the Historic Preservation Commission Jackson County, NC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/jacksonnchistory>) and the goal is to post two historic sites a week. Mr. Poston provided a handout of those scheduled posts for the remainder of the month of May.

Mr. Core stated synthesizing some of the things that were shared this evening about opening up some of those historic properties, perhaps that is something that we can look to in the future to do during Historic Preservation month. In addition, he stated whether that be next year and the following year, and if we know that date by Mountain Heritage Day we could begin doing save the date cards or something.

Mr. Poston stated they could begin to game plan, and maybe during Historic Preservation month and working with our partners to kind of say, hey, they are going to open this up for a tour and maybe there is some times where guided tours will be and we can work with the Appalachian Women's Museum. In addition, he stated maybe by that time, the Jackson County Historic Society will have some staffing and maybe we can bring some people through there. Mr. Poston stated staff could begin working on that if that is the Commission's hope and we can start to look into that for next year.

Ms. Eastman stated she had something to offer for Mountain Heritage Day, it is a little app that is GIS based called "Remember Tali Tsisgwayahi" that guides you around campus, it gives you maps and walks you through, and it also includes Judaculla Rock but it talks you through as it being a native town and where the archaeological sites are located. Mr. Poston asked if Ms. Eastman would send that link and information to Ms. Harkins and they could have a QR code to that app at the booth.

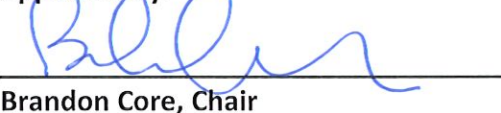
**Adjournment:**

With no further business, Michael Moore made a motion to adjourn. Beth Parris seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

  
Allison Kelley, Administrative Assistant

**Approved by:**

  
Brandon Core, Chair