

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Date: August 13, 2024								
Time Begin: 5:17 pm								
Time End: 5:38 pm								
Location: 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:

Anna Harkins, Planner I
 Allison Kelley, Administrative Assistant III
 Michael Poston, Planning Director

Call to Order and Quorum Check

Chairman Brandon Core called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m. and a quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda

Pam Meister made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition under “New Business” letter b) Historic Preservation Ordinance. Jane Eastman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Beth Parris made a motion to approve the minutes from June 18, 2024. Jane Eastman 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) Mountain Heritage Day Discussion

Ms. Harkins reminded the Commission that Mountain Heritage Day would be on Saturday, September 28, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. She passed out a volunteer sheet to the Commission to have them sign up for slots to help at the booth. In addition, she stated they have gathered walking tour guides for Webster that would be handed out at the booth. Staff also discussed how we could let the community know about when things are open, such as the library or Hooper House, Judaculla Rock etc. and have that placed near the sites that is on the “Drive Through Jackson County History Road Map”.

Ms. Leveille stated she would like for the Commission to send a thank you card or handwritten card to Western that says we appreciate the fact that the heritage is being honored as it is there 50th anniversary. Mr. Core stated he would be in charge of getting a draft letter together and to have that on the October agenda for the Commission to discuss.

b) Historic Preservation Ordinance

Mr. Core asked for a status update on where we were in the process to update the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Mr. Poston stated they needed to get on the municipalities boards agendas to present and discuss the new adopted language. This is a joint commission and all of the municipalities signed on and adopted the ordinance and it will have to go before all of those municipalities. He stated staff would begin to reach back out to those municipalities to see if they can get on their agendas to begin to move forward. In addition, he stated our past County attorney Heather Baker reviewed the document and she did not see anything major. However, each municipality will have their attorney also to take a look at the ordinance. Mr. Poston stated if any of the Commission members that are representing those municipalities could give them a heads up that staff would be reaching out to them that may help speed up that process. Ms. Parris asked staff if they could also send out the document to those municipalities so they could begin to look at it. Mr. Poston stated they would send out the document and remind them why they are sending the document and ask those municipalities to be taking a look at that ordinance.

Ms. Harkins provided a staff update that this is her last meeting as she will be moving to San Antonio Texas at the end of this month as that is where her husband is being stationed. She stated she is going to miss working for the County and especially this Commission as it has been the best opportunity and she has learned so much from this group. In addition, she stated if they have any questions or need any help she would be just a phone call away and would be happy to volunteer to help from a distance.

Ms. Leveille stated she had the opportunity to go to the Siler house in Franklin that has big white pillars, is a two-story log cabin which is quite rare and they used mud for chinking where you can see where the fingers rubbed through the mud. In addition, she stated it has been added onto several times, but has remained within the Siler family and believes they have a 501c3. Mr. Core stated his understanding was that the family gifted it to the Mainspring Conservation Trust and they are restoring the house. Ms. Leveille stated she was a Siler and they just had their 174th reunion in Franklin and it is believed to be the largest uninterrupted one in the United States. Mr. Moore stated October 1-5 is the Cherokee Fair and starts with a parade on the first and ends on Saturday.

Mr. Core thanked Ms. Harkins for providing a vision, direction and strategic leadership and oversight for the Commission. In addition, he stated she had re-established this Commission for the purpose and function that should exist.


Adjournment:

With no further business, Luther Jones made a motion to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Allison Kelley, Administrative Assistant

Approved by:


Brandon Core, Chair