

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Date: April 17th, 2018								
Time Begin: 5:33 pm								
Time End: 6 :40 pm								
Location: Jackson County Public Library- Conference Room								
Members	Present	Absent		Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Maudie Phillips		X	Jane Eastman	X		Carl Iobst		X
Susan Leveille	X		Joe Rhinehart	X		Beth Parris		X
Connie Haire	X		Luther Jones	X				
Bill Crawford	X		Pam Meister		X			

Others Present:

Cleis Bonham, Administrative Assistant
 Caroline Edmonds, Planner 1

Call to Order and Quorum Check

Chairman Susan Leveille called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. and a quorum was present.

Public Comment

There were no public comments

Approval of the Agenda

Connie Haire made a motion to approve the agenda without any changes. Jane Eastman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Jane Eastman made a motion to approve the minutes without any changes. Luther Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business:

A.) Facebook: Webster Baptist Church

Caroline Edmonds began showing the HPC Facebook page to the Board in order to show to the board the pictures that she had taken and obtained from other sources of the Webster School, Lucius Coleman Hall house and other historic locations that she had posted online. The pictures were well received or “liked” by viewers. Joe Rhinehart shared that the marker for the students from Webster School that were killed in WWII was made by the students of Webster School. Also, his mother taught school there and she, after the war, sought out her students that had returned from war and convinced them to come back to school.

After updating the board on the HPC Facebook page, the board turned their attention to Webster Baptist Church. Caroline asked the board to share with the board any interesting facts that they may know regarding this church. Joe Rhinehart shared that the furniture was done by the Cowans and that windows were stained in memory of someone in particular. Bill Crawford shared that Joseph Warrenton Cowan and his brother James sold the congregation the land for the church for \$35.00 and then returned the money to the church as a donation. Before the

Webster Baptist Church built the structure that still stands today, they met at the River Hill School above the current property. Mr. Bill Crawford's mother and grandmother went to school and church at the Riverhill School. Joe Rhinehart's family had originally owned all of the "Riverhill" property and their family donated the land for the church and school. The first teacher that there is any record of at the Riverhill school house was named Thomas Frizzle.

The trustees that bought the Riverhill property were Joseph Cowan, Lucius Coleman Hall and J.D. Buchanan. The pews and altar in the church were made by Joseph Cowan. One interesting fact is that both the Webster Church congregation included several slaves.

B.) WCU's Graham Building & Niggli Theater Photos

Caroline Edmonds shared with the board that she had gone to WCU's Graham building and taken several pictures, both of the inside and the outside, for the purpose of documentation. She also obtained the original blueprints of the building and passed them around for members to see. The board viewed the pictures and very much appreciated that they have photographs of this old building that will soon be torn down. The board shared memories regarding the building. The Graham Infirmary was named in honor of Frank P. Graham. There are a couple of plaques and if WCU does not save them, then the HPC will ask to save them. The board observed that the tiles or bricks that are used in the basement are hollow. The dead air space as an insulator. These tiles or bricks are not used in construction now a days.

Caroline Edmonds had also visited and photographed the Niggli Theater building. This is part of the Stillwell building. Luther Jones explained that the main floor of the seating area had been raised so that it was handicap accessible and then he shared an interesting story regarding the theater. Originally they were building a theater and they were going to put a fly system on it. Miss. Niggli was there and she pointed out that they were building a theater with no department or offices for people to work there. In order to create offices, the big doors that were supposed to be at the back of the theater got moved to the back. They took what was supposed to be the fly loft and built it onto the back. The 4 rooms in the back were originally the offices. Luther Jones also shared that the first time you showed up to a rehearsal late, the rehearsal was stopped and you had to get on stage and apologize to the cast and crew. The second time you were late, the cast and crew voted on whether or not you stayed in the show. There was no third time. The third time somebody already had your place. She ran a tight ship. Today she is considered to be one of the early Chicano writers and her book is still used as a text for Hispanic studies. She is the only Hispanic woman in the USA to have a theater named for her.

Caroline also shared with the board that she would be going to the Squire Watkins Inn to take some pictures and invited anyone to join her if they would like too.

Old Business:

A.) HPC Interview Project:

Caroline Edmonds explained to the board that she had listened to some of the oral history interviews on WCU's archive and had written some of the questions down that they had used. She had added a few additional questions that she would like to ask in order to get additional information from those that are interviewed. She passed the list of questions around for the board to see and invited them to examine the questions and consider other questions that should be added or any changes made to the current questions. Each member received their own sheet of questions to take home and examine. The questions focus on the differences of life in Jackson

County then versus now and examine how things have changed over time. The board discussed that there were some schools that only went to school 6 months out of the year and some that only had 11 grades, rather than 12.

B.) Historic home tour:

For the Greening up the Mountains Festival there will be a historic tour. Caroline Edmonds shared that they can start on the sidewalk in front of Livingston's Photo at 10 a.m. on April 28th. Joe Rhinehart would like to walk up one side of the street and down the other. Bill Crawford can talk about Sylva since he grew up in Sylva. Joe Rhinehart grew up in Webster and can share what has happened with buildings over time as well as what it was like to spend Saturdays in town. Caroline Edmonds will bring brochures and a sign for the historic tour on the 28th. She will also advertise the tour. Sometimes events like these bring out people who are able to talk about the way things used to be. Chairman Susan Leveille encouraged board members to speak with tour attendees about the interview project to encourage participation and raise awareness of the project.

Updates

Luther Jones shared that there are rumors at WCU campus about a project between the History Department, the Music Department and the Mountain Heritage Center regarding the 100th anniversary of the armistice of WWI in November. He was wondering if this is something the board would be interested in looking at or getting involved with. The board is interested and wants to look more into it.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Cleis Bonham, Administrative Assistant

Approved by:



Susan Leveille, Chair

