

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Date: September 20, 2022								
Time Begin: 5:30 pm								
Time End: 6:24 pm								
Location: Jackson County Public Library, Conference Room								
Members	Present	Absent		Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Susan Leveille	X		Jane Eastman	X		Beth Parris		X
Bill Crawford	X		Luther Jones	X		Vacant		
Brandon Core	X		Pam Meister	X				
Celeste Pratt	X		Carl Iobst		X			

Staff Present:

Anna Harkins, Planner I
Allison Kelley, Administrative Assistant III

Call to Order and Quorum Check

Chair Susan Leveille called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and a quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda

Jane Eastman made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Pam Meister seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Brandon Core made a motion to approve the minutes from June 21st, July 26th, and August 16th. Jane Eastman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment (3 minutes per speaker)

There were no public comments.

Informal Discussion

a) Mountain Heritage Day Discussion

Ms. Harkins stated they had received their booth assignment and it is located towards the edge of the first row of booths, number 103. Staff plans to arrive to set up at 8:00 a.m. and there is still open slots to volunteer for the booth. In addition, she is speaking to the historic preservation class and public history program at Western Carolina University (WCU) tomorrow, and hopes to get a few student volunteers to help bring people into the booth and participate with our interactive historic site map. Ms. Harkins stated the festival is from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and if those who are volunteering cannot make the slot they signed up for to reach out to staff by email or phone.

b) Design Standards Discussion

Ms. Harkin stated she sent out the draft document of the introduction to the design standards, which was researched and written by our summer intern Avery Grice. Most of the information is from the Jackson County history books that we gave her, as well as architectural surveys. Ms. Harkins stated she added the graphics, and the purpose and process of the design review. The design standards were created based on information researched,

from other communities that are our size and have similar resources but they can be crafted to better fit our community as we see the need. She asked the Commission for their feedback including any grammatical errors, typos or a wrong date to forward those to her so she can compare and edit all at once. However, if there are any major changes that need to be discussed it would be best to bring those up during the meeting. She inquired how they would like to move forward discussing the design standards. Ms. Harkins stated it would be a longer process but they could breakup these standards and go section by section over the next couple of months. In addition, she stated they are still waiting on legal counsel regarding the updated Historic Preservation Ordinance, and they should have a final edit forthcoming at a future meeting.

Ms. Leveille inquired if they could do a work session to focus on these design standards. Ms. Harkins stated yes, they can schedule a work session meeting they could do it during their regular scheduled meeting, or they could look to finding another date or time that could work better for the Commission.

Mr. Core inquired if during the work session with one section of the draft design standards if they could also have an educational component. He stated there is definitely going to be terminology in these standards that is going to be important to be on the same page and understand. Ms. Harkins stated they could prepare an educational presentation regarding design standards for the work session meeting.

Ms. Harkins stated the purpose of these standards are for those that have achieved a designated landmark status within our local register or within a locally registered district, when we only have three local registers. She stated during the process of designating landmark status they would go by the rules of the ordinance and the design standards. In addition, she had the opportunity to attend the American Planning Association (APA) conference for North Carolina, and attended a session about historic preservation, specifically making it more equitable. The session also discussed was creating a sub layer of districts for areas that do not qualify for National Register status or would not fit with the local standard, which would receive recognition for its heritage significance in the area. Ms. Harkins stated during the session they discussed an historic African American community that was vibrant, and then urban renewal happened and the community was not on the National Register and was destroyed. The community created a heritage community program to acknowledge the community with a monument sign and information on their website. Ms. Harkins stated the Commission could discuss this as an alternative for those that do not qualify for a local designation or national register status.

Ms. Leveille stated the one area that comes to mind for her is the flood of 1940. Dozens of homes along the Tuckasegee River that were historic disappeared in the middle of the night, it was the topic of conversation that many locals know about but if they could have the ability to recognize and mention that it did rob us of structures that we would have loved to see.

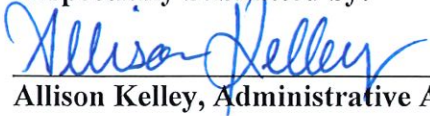
Ms. Harkins stated there are many areas that have lost history, but there are people who still remember it, and we do have documentation. In addition, she stated there is a possibility there and she could bring that forward to discuss with the Commission. She stated she had spoken with the Town of Webster about possibly zoning overlay, and we have those mapped out slightly based off what is on the State Historic Preservation Office website.

The Commission unanimously decided to hold a work session meeting in place of their regular scheduled meeting for October and November.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Luther Jones made a motion to adjourn at 6:24 p.m. Jane Eastman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Allison Kelley, Administrative Assistant

Approved by:



Susan Leveille, Chair