

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Date: September 19, 2023								
Time Begin: 5:17 pm								
Time End: 5:57 pm								
Location: Jackson County Public Library, Conference 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

Others Present:

Eddie Johnson, Historic Preservation Intern

Call to Order and Quorum Check

Chair Susan Leveille called the meeting to order at 5:17 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

Michael Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from August 15, 2023. Luther Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment (3 minutes per speaker)

- Michael Moore announced that the Cherokee Indian Fair would be on October 3rd.
- Beth Parris announced that she would be having a meeting on October 23rd at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall to discuss starting a Dillsboro Historical Society. In addition, she stated she hopes to gain interest for volunteers at the Jackson County Historical Society since it has not been up and running since Joe Rhinehart.

New Business

a) **Mountain Heritage Day**

Ms. Harkins stated for the festival the Commission would be highlighting Jackson County's National Register Landmarks to help people be more aware of the those landmarks and where they are located within the County. In addition, she stated they would be having a roadmap through Jackson County posters series with pictures of each of the national landmarks with a brief history, along with a pocket guide brochures of the national register sites, and coloring pages of some of the landmarks. Ms. Harkins stated she included within

the Commission packets a Mountain Heritage Day cheat sheet of information about each of the national landmarks so they could review those before volunteering at the festival. In addition, she passed out a volunteer sheet for the festival for those to participate in hour blocks. Ms. Harkins also passed out the newest coloring page of Balsam Mountain Inn that would also be included in the festival booth.

Ms. Harkins stated they would also be having the "Do Your Own Architectural Survey Guides" that was include in the festival last year. In addition, they would be having an official Jackson County Historic Preservation Commission banner printed.

b) Historic Preservation Intern

Ms. Harkins stated back in the spring she spoke to Dr. Jessie Swigger at Western Carolina University (WCU) about a Historic Preservation intern to work on a story map where we could connect people to learn more about Jackson County History in an online format. A story map, is a newer technology using mapping systems and museum work and blending the two together.

Eddie Johnson introduced himself to the Commission stating he is in his senior year at WCU and is a tour guide for the school, which has been helpful for the internship with the Commission. Mr. Johnson stated the story map uses geographical information systems to convey a story in a way of the historical upper campus of Western. In addition, he stated he has used the Mountain Heritage Center and Hunter Library for information about each of the buildings that are included within the story map. He stated he has worked with some local people to help gain more information for the buildings such as Patrick Fraser and Phil Collin who is the vice chancellor of admissions that wrote a book about Western's history. He showed an example from Furman University of what their story map looked like to get an idea of how it would look online and how to navigate. In addition, he showed the draft of the story map he was working on for upper campus of Western of those buildings and locations of buildings that no longer exist.

Ms. Meister inquired if Mr. Johnson considered finding a way to incorporate information on land acknowledgement. For example, Cullowhee Valley was an important place of learning for the Cherokee and their ancestors, and all of these structures were built on Cherokee land. Mr. Johnson stated he was planning on including some of that information but will make sure to include more of that aspect of history as he works through the story map.

Ms. Harkins stated Mr. Johnson has also prepared Facebook post for us to use highlighting some of the buildings that would be included in the story map. In addition, she stated he has been collaborating with Allie Mathis in the County's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department to help get the story map set up and started. Ms. Harkins stated this first story map will be a blueprint for future historic areas and structures in the County and we will include these on the County website. In addition, she stated Mr. Johnson would be coming back to the Commission at either the end of November or beginning of December for his final presentation of the story map.

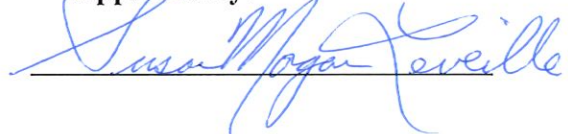
Adjournment:

With no further business, Michael Moore made a motion to adjourn at 5:57 p.m. Beth Parris seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Approved by:



Allison Kelley, Administrative Assistant

Susan Leveille, Chair