

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Date: February 20, 2018								
Time Begin: 5:36 pm								
Time End: 6:45 pm								
Location: WCU's Robinson Administration Building Room 540								
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				

Staff Present:

Caroline Edmonds, Planner 1
 Cleis Bonham, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order and Quorum Check

Beth Parris called the meeting to order at 5:36 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 with no changes or additions. Caro Iobst seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Pam Meister made a motion to approve the minutes from November 21st, 2017 as written. Connie Haire seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

New Business: HPC Facebook: Lucius Coleman Hall House

Caroline Edmonds began by explaining that she did put the downtown Sylva Historic district on the facebook page in the last week, and it reached nearly 10,000 people because it was shared by Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. Next, she explained that this month is the Coleman Hall House in Webster. An invitation to go see the Hall house after the adjournment of the meeting was extended by Caroline. Joe Rhinehart, who brought a colored picture of the Hall house, shared with the board some of the house's general history, including that it was built by Lucius Coleman Hall, that Congressman David Hall built the porch, that it was the first home in Jackson County to have running water and a bathtub, and that builders have used this home, in full or in

part, as a model when building other homes in the County. Board members then recalled and discussed various interesting features of the house such as the low ceilings, the circle inside that children liked to run around, the winding stair case, and the nearby pond or lake where fish were kept for the purpose of being caught and cooked. The meeting then turned to the next item on the agenda.

Old Business: Historic Home Tour

Caroline Edmonds informed the board that they have spoken to the Main Street Sylva Association regarding the making of a Home Tour, and that the Association is supportive of this effort whenever the board gets it ready. Caroline presented a map to the board in an effort to map out a path for a guided downtown Sylva walking tour. Discussion turned to who would actually lead this tour, which buildings would be included and from where the needed information would be gathered. Pam Meister suggested that a brochure be made to facilitate a self-guided walking tour, after the walking tour is created. The Board then discussed memories of Saturdays in Sylva, a certain concrete bench where Jacksonians congregated for these memorable events and the possibility of obtaining photos of these events to use in the tour.

The discussion returned to the creation of a walking tour. Carl Iobst pointed out that less is more, meaning that it is better to have a few houses that have a really good story, rather than many houses with a vague story. Good stories will pique public interest. Also, any buildings in downtown Sylva, such as restaurants that used to be houses, that possibly contain an interesting story could also be used in the tour. The goal for the completion of this walking tour is summertime.

The board discussed how the public might enjoy before and after photos of downtown Sylva during the tour, as well as from what sources these photos could be gathered. The before photos would be from about 90 years ago. Caroline agreed to begin compiling these photos from the Sylva Herald in the coming months.

The original goal in the comprehensive plan had been to do a Historic Home Tour, however due to the current lack of homes on Main Street, the board may be switching more to buildings rather than homes, or possibly just keep the home tour in a more confined area around Main Street. It was determined that the best place to start is with gathering photos.

Old Business: Historic Preservation project name

Caroline had come up with a list of project names, as well as a list of possible interviewees to share with the board. After looking at said list, the board discussed possible project names, as well as whether the interviewees would be only from the Town or from the entire County, being that where the interviewees are from will determine the type of project name that should be chosen. The board decided that interviews would be open to the whole County so that Cashiers can be included, being that Cashiers has a lot of material that the Historic Preservation Commission can use. Additional names of possible interviewees were added to Caroline's working list. The board then returned to the subject of choosing a project name, and a motion was made by Luther Jones and seconded by Pam Meister to choose "Riverside Chats" as the

project name; however, the motion died on the table. Board members shared several other potential project names, such as “Tuck Talks”. However, after much discussion the board decided to postpone the vote of a definitive project name since the best name could not be determined until they have further knowledge of who their interviewees will be.

Some students at the High School, for their senior project, are doing some work that could possibly be of benefit to the Historic Preservation Commission for the tour. The benefit of collaborating with these kids would be two fold because this would encourage kids to learn more about the History of Jackson County by aiding in the interview process, while also benefiting the board by gathering needed information through these face to face interviews. A suggestion was made to pair a student with an adult in order to plan what exactly should be asked during the interviews, as well as to maximize the potential for students to learn the art of asking good information gaining interview-type questions.

The meeting ended with the Board members choosing the names of people from off of Caroline’s list of possible interviewees that they personally know and can talk to about this project in order to determine their interest level in being interviewed. It was also determined that Board members have until the April to contact possible interviewees to determine interest level. Until the next meeting, board members will be brainstorming about what they want to document from the interviewees lives.

Adjournment:

Luther moved that the meeting be adjourned and Susan seconded it. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by:
