

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Date: February 18, 2020								
Time Begin: 5:15 pm								
Time End: 5:59 pm								
Location: Jackson County Public Library, Conference Room								
Members	Present	Absent		Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Daniel Peoples	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:

Caroline LaFrienier, Planner II
Allison Kelley, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order and Quorum Check

Chairman Susan Leveille called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and a quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda

Connie Haire made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Jane Eastman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Luther Jones made a motion to approve minutes from January 21st, 2020. Jane Eastman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Public Comment (3 minutes per speaker)

There were no public comments.

New Business

a) Architectural Survey of Historic Resources Discussion

Ms. LaFrienier stated staff had received five proposals for the architectural survey. The selection committee is made up of Susan Leveille (HPC Chair), Caroline LaFrienier (Planner II), Michael Poston (Planning Director), Heather Baker (County Attorney), and Annie McDonald (Preservation Specialist at NC Historic Preservation Office). She stated the committee met yesterday, reviewed the proposals, and narrowed it down to two finalists for interviews. Ms. LaFrienier stated she currently has one interview scheduled for the first week in March and hopes to have the consultant selected by the Commissions next meeting. In addition, she asked the Commission if they had any additional addresses, properties to add to the list to be surveyed between 1945-1975 to please forward via email or call.

b) Certified Local Government (CLG) Update

Ms. LaFrienier stated she had a conference call with Ramona Bartos whom is an Administrator, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, and Division Director of the Office of Archives and History. They spoke about the work the Commission has done over

the last four years via events, education and outreach. In order to be eligible for CLG, the Commission is missing the element of Certificates of Appropriateness (COA) of locally designated landmarks. They currently have three locally designated landmarks in the county, the Hooper House in Sylva, Mordecai Zackary House in Cashiers, and Webster Methodist Church. Property owners of locally designated landmarks must come before the Commission with any modifications to the structure for plan review, and approval. Ms. LaFrienier stated the next step is to look at other structures and properties (can be physical structures, districts, or similar to Judaculla Rock) within the county to designate as a local landmark.

Ms. Eastman inquired if the Commission had to form a document that determines the criteria for COA's. Ms. LaFrienier stated the secretary of interior has design guidelines that they could use and adopt or they can compile their own list of guidelines. Ms. Haire asked staff to gather design guidelines from other counties, and bring to a future meeting for the Commission to review and discuss.

Ms. LaFrienier discussed the process for local designations and staff would seek the cooperation of the property owners. If the Commission is not interested in the interior of the structure, they can place the designation on the property without the owner's cooperation. In addition, a benefit of local designation is owners are eligible to apply for an annual 50 percent property tax deferral if the historical features are maintained. Unlike landmark designation, local historic district designation has no effect on local property taxes for property owners within the designated district.

Ms. LaFrienier stated she would reach out to counties with joint commissions to determine the average total number of members. She stated having a quorum is a statewide issue, and they could have an education and outreach sub-committee, and the Commission could meet separately for determining COA's. In order to be eligible for CLG, the Commission needs evidence of a comprehensive inventory of the areas cultural resources, which is the survey they are conducting over the next couple of months. Information regarding areas that are locally designated historic districts and/or landmarks. She stated they already have the Commission, rules and procedures established. They would also submit a resume of each member of Commission, and description of past and current activity. In addition, they would need to develop design guidelines used by the Commission for COA's.

The Commission discussed future potential local designated landmarks such as Judaculla Rock, Cherokee Fish Weir, Jewel J. Revis Memorial Bridge (#63) and Suspension Bridge (#352) on Barkers Creek Road.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Luther Jones made a motion to adjourn. Daniel Peoples seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Allison Kelley, Administrative Assistant

Approved by:



Susan Leveille, Chair