

Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, August 9

6:00 pm

City of Montevallo Council Chambers

Members Present:

Susan Godwin

Bill Glosson

Valerie Johnson

Kathy King

Melinda Nix

Janice Seaman

Anitka Sims Stewart

Sherry Vallides

Call to Order: 6 pm

- Establish quorum
- Approval of minutes from July 2022: Amendment to add approximate cost of bench. Motion to approve as amended Godwin; second Stewart. Motion carries (unanimous).

Announcements:

- Welcome new members (Glosson and Nix)
- Listing of Shoal Creek Baptist Graveyard (alternative names Perry Family Cemetery, Shoal Creek Cemetery) on the Alabama Historic Register
 - King provides brief background and history of the Shoal Creek Baptist congregation and church
 - Hope to eventually develop a marker, connect to African American Heritage Trail, Baptist church in Shelby County, etc.
 - Due to new addition to the register, cemetery is now eligible for development funds
- Proposal to recommend African American Heritage Trail to Council for approval.
 - Motion Godwin; second Johnson. Discussion opens.
 - Discussion indicates some desire or need for revisions to the working document due to some omissions. Motion *amended* to indicate HPC approval on the project and work on revising the working document. Motion carries (unanimous).
 - King and Nix present and review working protect proposal for Montevallo African American Heritage Trail
 - Sites on the trail do not need to be registered historic properties; the location is the point.
 - Discussion to add paper maps to the project for older generations who are not digitally savvy.
 - Introduction of Veronica Bailey, member of the Emfinger family that maintains the Aldrich mine museum, discussion of some of the Aldrich sites.

Old Business:

- Updated information regarding the Cunningham memorial bench (via Mayor Nix): bench cost is \$7350; entered for the record.
- Revisit, discuss, and approve re-revised bylaws.

- Update: Architecture Review Board (ARB) is also called the Design Review Commission (DRC), and the revisions to the municipal code remove the historic elements from the existing ARB/DRC's mandate but do not dissolve the ARB/DRC.
- The revised municipal code indicates that the historic powers of the old or current ARB/DRC are now part of the HPC. ARB/DRC retains its non-historic authority.
- The sub-committee has decided that the HPC is the ARB/DRC, and thus no new additions to the HPC Bylaws (under revision) need to be made.
 - Discussion regarding meetings: suggest that called meetings be established to handle any historic design material.
 - Main Street Montevallo will help businesses operating out of historic properties facilitate the process.
 - Clarifications do need to be made to the City website to appropriately reflect this reading of the DRC's powers:
 - <https://www.cityofmontevallo.com/DesignReviewCommittee.aspx>
 - Contact with Courtney Bentley, director of Montevallo Mainstreet
 - Point of contact should be CLG / City Clerk, who will then direct the material appropriately
 - City Clerk and Director of Montevallo Mainstreet should work with HPC/DRC to develop flowchart, checklists, etc.
- Motion to hold off on voting on bylaws revision for another month: Vallides; second: Seaman. Motion carries. (Johnson objects.)

New Business:

- Return to standard second Tuesday meeting time.
 - Motion Godwin, second Nix. Motion carries.
- Seaman brings attention to a book-in-progress, referenced in Shelby County Historical Society's magazine, *History and Heritage*
 - Subject is on Rev. Vasser, who lived in Almont
- Discussion regarding King and Stewart's *Chamber Chatter* series on African American / Black Montevallo residents' untold stories
 - Seaman expresses reservations about linking the CC stories and MHPC when members of the MHPC have not vetted the articles.
 - Discussion over inclusion of MHPC tagline / connection; discussion over nature of the series and the rhetorical requirements of CC articles.
- Bobby Pierson, under direction of city council, presents possibility of naming a street or a block or a site named for the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., offering the example of Wetumpka, AL as a municipality that has recently accomplished this feat; offers his own block as a candidate
 - Discussion determines that, per Glosson, the AL state code prevents streets from being included in the state's historic codes, so the matter is not something the HPC could address
 - The state code issue is in changing addresses – not adding a memorial designation to an existing highway or bridge, which would be a precedent that the HPC might endorse but it is not within the HPC's authority

Adjournment: 7:16 pm

Next meeting: Sept. 13, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers