

Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, November 7, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Parnell Memorial Library

Members Present:

Veronica Bailey, Tara Brantley, Reverend Kenneth Dukes, Bill Glosson, Susan Godwin, Melinda Nix, James Salter, Janice Seaman and Sherry Vallides

Guest: Councilwoman Martha Ann Eisenberg

Call to Order:

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.

A motion was made by Rev. Dukes to approve the minutes from the October 3rd meeting; motion seconded by S. Godwin; motion passed.

Old Business:

J. Seaman reminded members that plaques/markers must be approved by the commission before they are sent to be approved by the city council.

J. Salter gave a synopsis of the information used to create the AAHT markers for the Mason Hall (160 Commerce Street) and the “Little School” (1025 Island Street).

S. Vallides made a motion for the commission to approve historical markers for the Mason Hall and the “Little School”; S. Godwin seconded; motion approved.

M. Nix reported that she met with David Calhoun from the Shelby County Board of Education and Principal Dr. Jenise Hampton of Montevallo Middle School on October 26th regarding a historic marker at Montevallo Middle. The group reviewed the information currently available for the marker and selected a site for a marker to be installed. Mr. Calhoun asked that information be sent to his secretary so SCBOE records can be pulled and copied for vetting purposes.

S. Vallides stated that she has received the GPR report of the Shoal Creek Baptist Church from Steve Gilbert. S. Vallides suggested that the commission ensures that the area around the gravesites are being maintained by the city and that some type of temporary protective barrier be placed around the site for security purposes until a permanent solution is acquired. She also suggested an ordinance stating that persons wanting to use that area for events must receive approval from the city in advance. J. Seaman stated that she and Marty Everse have discussed options for that site and, possibly, a partnership with the historic society or SCPF on the project. S. Vallides stated that she would speak with Steve Gilbert about maintenance and fencing needs at the site.

Members discussed the possibility of placing a marker at the convict cemetery in Aldrich since a listing of the names of the persons buried at the site has been located by V. Bailey. Members agreed that the property owners would have to be contacted and give approval before such project could proceed.

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J. Seaman stated that she met with Steve Gilbert regarding work on the back wall (kitchen area) at the Mahler House. She reported that the city the architect to drawings for the HVAC, plumbing and electrical stage of the project.

New Business

J. Seaman stated that she is in the process of completing the yearly report to Alabama Historic Commission and that members need to bring their individual continuing education hours information to the next meeting.

T. Brantley reviewed the commission's responsibility to create Design Guidelines. Local Historic Preservation Commissions are the only entities tasked with the process of creating and reviewing such guidelines. The importance of contacting property owners to educate and inform them of the significance of owning historic properties was stressed with an emphasis placed on how those properties contribute to the community. Property owners need to be made aware of the tax credit aspect of owning historic properties. T. Brantley discussed forming a committee for the purposes of outreach to historic property owners but, before that can be enacted, design guidelines should be completed. T. Brantley has been researching design guidelines from other cities to get an overview of what others included in their manuals. Members reviewed examples from other cities.

V. Bailey discussed her progress on the survey of Aldrich. In the absence of official maps, V. Bailey has sketched her own map to begin the survey process. S. Vallides reported that she is in the process of having official maps of the area enlarged and copied. The process of identifying property owners by tax records was discussed and J. Seaman offered her assistance with the project to V. Bailey.

The next MHPC meeting will be on Tuesday, December 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the Parnell Room at Parnell Memorial Library.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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