

Cayce Historical Museum Complex Commission Meeting – February 5, 2013

Members present: Mary Sharpe, Ann Diamond, Cindy Peake, Marion Hutson, AG Dantzler, Archie Moore, and Alice Brooks Executive Director: Leo Redmond

Members absent: Scott Morgan (excused), Lynn Summer (excused)

- Commission Chairperson Sharpe called the meeting to order,
- Commissioner Dantzler offered the invocation.
- Commissioner Diamond moved that the minutes from the January 8th meeting be approved. Commissioner Hutson seconded and the vote was unanimous.
- Chairperson Sharpe began the meeting with another brief discussion of 2012's Christmas Traditions.
 - Several Commissioners have received comments and questions about the Caboose; e.g., why it wasn't being used anymore.
 - Director Redmond said it had been staffed for years, with little to no visitor attendance. The caboose has been used as part of the Lantern Tours program for several years, making it impractical to be open to the public.
 - The 2013 theme will be "Christmas Past, Present and Future," so should lend itself nicely to many interpretations. Commissioners are encouraged to continue their suggestions.
 - Commission Chair Sharpe expressed her thanks, once again, to her fellow Commissioners, docents and volunteers for their hard work on this project.
- Director Redmond began his report with an update of Museum activity. January and February are normally very slow months, but this year seems to be an exception, with many tours and presentations scheduled.
 - The most recent presentation, for instance, was February 4 (a Monday and normally the staff's day off), at Boiling Springs United Methodist Church. One of the attendees (a lovely woman, 93 years young) had played in the *original* Cayce House as a child. She grew up with the Ellisor family and had many memories to share.
 - Commissioners urged Director Redmond to continue his meetings with SCANA officials about a possible move or at least a presence at the proposed History Park. SCANA wants this to happen, but Commissioners feel we need more details. Several Commissioners, including Moore, Hutson, and Brooks, expressed much interest and that Director Redmond should continue in trying to get as much information as possible so that the Commission can make an informed decision.

- Commissioner Moore brought up the historic graveyard/Quarry issue that had been discussed on and off since last fall.
 - At the urging of many in the community, Museum staff, Commissioners, and other interested Cayce historians have attempted to work with Quarry officials to gain access to historic gravesites that are now surrounded by Quarry property.
 - As it stands, the current offer from the Quarry is that “up to four” visits to the gravesites may be made annually. This is deemed unacceptable by all, especially family members of people buried there – many of whom live out of town.
 - Commissioner Moore also pointed out that only as many as 20-30 gravesites actually remain marked. This does not match up with the official list of persons interred there. Sadly, this points to historic gravesites being destroyed by erosion and other causes.
 - Much discussion ensued, including not only ethical and moral concerns, but the question as to whether it is even legal to block access to a known graveyard.
 - Moore reported that Council will likely approve the sale of three properties (including the site currently housing the police substation) to the Quarry. This particular property was deeded to the City by the late Kelley Jones of Riverland Park for the betterment of the City. Moore further reported that Quarry officials had promised to “put something special on this site” should the sale go forward.
 - Commissioners instructed Moore and Redmond to continue investigating the details of the Quarry/historic graveyard situation and to pursue this further.
 - Director Redmond recommended, and Commissioners agreed, that this activity be continued under the auspices of the Saxe Gotha Historical Society.
- New Business:
 - Commissioner Moore reported on his work with Archives and History. They are working to get Old State Road listed on the National Register. This will protect it in the future.
 - Director Redmond reported that Commissioners Sharpe and Morgan are up for new terms. Commissioners have expressed their consent for these Commissioners to continue with their work and the proper paperwork will be submitted to the City later this month.
- Commissioners were urged to continue their positive work and commitment to the Historical Museum Complex as well as their suggestions and visions for a strengthened Saxe Gotha Historical Foundation, which will be discussed in greater detail at future meetings.

Commissioner Hutson said he would talk to Rudy Mancke about an earlier idea to name the trails behind the museum “The Rudy Mancke Nature Trail” which all the Commission expressed they thought this was a good idea.

Several members also asked about the project of photographing the present Commissioners so that their photographs could be displayed in the Conference Room, as earlier planned.

With no further agenda items to discuss, Commissioner Hutson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Peake.

Respectfully submitted:

Alice Brooks, Commission Secretary

CC: Museum Commission Chair Mary Love Sharpe and Museum Complex Commissioners
Leo Redmond, Museum Complex Director
City of Cayce Mayor and City Council Members
City of Cayce Manager and other officials as required