

Minutes
City of LaFayette Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting at Chattooga Academy
Monday, December 12, 2011
5 p.m.

PRESENT: HPC members Connie Forester, Ronald Underwood, Elizabeth Edwards, Wade Gilbert and Jim Sailors; Main Street Design Committee members Michael Lovelady, David Boyle and Charles Goulding; City Manager Frank Etheridge; city Main Street and Economic Development Director Catherine Edgemon; visitor David Sutton

ABSENT: Main Street Design Committee members Frances Cobb and David Cameron

HPC Chairman Forester called the meeting to order and determined a quorum was present.

APPROVE MINUTES

Ms. Edgemon summarized the minutes for the November 14, 2011, meeting. HPC Chairman Forester, hearing no corrections to the minutes, accepted them as presented.

VISITORS

The group welcomed new City Manager Frank Etheridge and visitor David Sutton, who is a former planner with the Regional Development Center in Valdosta. Mr. Sutton discussed his experience as a historic preservation advocate, urged the HPC to move forward with submitting the proposed historic business district for listing on the National Register of Historic Places because of the tax incentives, and offered to help the HPC as it works to build public support for the proposed local historic district.

Ms. Edgemon said she has delivered or mailed the business and building owners in the proposed districts copies of the guidelines and offered to meet with them about them. She met with two building owners and hopes more people will contact her with questions and feedback as they read the documents. Instead of the regular business meeting on Monday, January 9, 2012, at 5 p.m. the HPC will host a town hall meeting for people to ask questions, tell the HPC what they like and don't like about the guidelines, etc. The meeting will be at Bank of LaFayette Community Room.

Ms. Edgemon said she would email the business and building owner contact list to the HPC members so they can divide it, and she will provide copies of the proposed historic district nomination report and design guidelines to the new city council members.

OLD BUSINESS

ORNAMENT SALES UPDATE

Ms. Edgemon asked HPC and Design Committee members to help with ornaments sales and to promote the ornaments when they talk to clubs and anyone who might be interested.

JANUARY EXHIBIT AT CHATTOOGA ACADEMY

HPC Chairman Forester said she will start setting up for the education in Walker County exhibit after the first of the year. She is getting photos and other information for the exhibit. The group asked members to contact sources they know for information and items for an exhibit on African-American history for February.

LIGHT FIXTURES FOR PARK SCULPTURE

HPC Vice chairman Underwood recommended incandescent fixtures to replace the two existing fixtures that continually need the bulbs replaced because they are not adequate for their current use.

HPC member Sailors made a motion to ask the DDA to replace the fixtures with the incandescent ones. HPC Secretary Edwards seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

POCKET PARK UPDATE – TREES, IRRIGATION AND BENCHES

Ms. Edgemon said she met with Vance Jones to locate the trees and irrigation, and the benches, which were ordered several weeks ago, should arrive any time.

The group asked that an irrigation map be created to show where the lines are.

NEW BUSINESS

MARKERS FOR TREES AT POCKET PARK

The group discussed prices and colors for the granite because the cost for the Missouri/India red is so much higher than for gray granite. They asked Ms. Edgemon to compare vendor prices in 6x10-inch size in gray granite.

CEMETERY BROCHURE

Ms. Edgemon suggested the group consider developing a walking tour brochure for the cemetery that shows the locations of the more interesting markers/statues and people in LaFayette's history and brief biographies. The group said former residents who should be included are Captain Farris, Mayor Shattuck, the Marshes, James Sartain, sheriffs of note in county history, the Napiers who established the *Walker County Messenger*, veterans of the 19th Century Wars, including the Civil War. The historic section for slave and later African-American graves should be shown, as well as the section for paupers' graves. The group will work on this project over the next several months.

Ms. Edgemon said she is asking Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia to take all existing brochures and put them online with interactive maps, to look at creating podcasts and geo-caching and the codes that allow information to be transmitted to smart phones.

VOLUNTEERS AT LAFAYETTE WOMAN'S CLUB

Ms. Edgemon said one of the club's members told her that members would be willing to volunteer to have the museum open on Sundays, and she will ask for volunteers starting in January.

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

UPDATE ON 111 E. LAFAYETTE SQUARE (ONE ELEVEN RESTAURANT)

Design Committee member Lovelady is working to open next week for breakfast, lunch and supper.

CHATTOOGA ACADEMY SIGN MESSAGE BOARD

Ms. Edgemon said she has ordered the message board sign.

TREE BEHIND CHATTOOGA ACADEMY

Ms. Edgemon has not heard back from Mr. King about looking at the ailing, historic tree and will ask the city manager if she can hire an arborist to look at it and make the necessary repairs to help keep the tree from deteriorating further.

UNION COTTON MILL CORNER STONE

Ms. Edgemon will ask Commissioner Heiskell about donating the cornerstone for the Union Cotton Mill to be included in the planned "wall" with the old jail, high school and courthouse cornerstones.

HPC Chairman Forester adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.