

## LEXINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM COMMISSION MINUTES

**APRIL 4, 2017**

**Members Present:** Bill Kiesling, Edie Harmon, Joyce Mize, SaBrina Jeffcoat and Laura McMahan

**Members Absent:** Cathy Stutts, Mary Sharpe (family illness), Rhett Inabinett and Jim Riddle

**Others Present:** J. R. Fennell, Director

Commissioner Chairman Bill Kiesling called the meeting to order at 5:30. SaBrina Jeffcoat was welcomed to the commission as our newest member. She was appointed by Scott Whetstone (District 1) to fill the vacancy left by Annette Lucas whose term had expired. The roll was taken and revealed that a quorum was not present. Based upon the constitution and bylaws, there must be a minimum of six members present to constitute a quorum. All business conducted at the meetings was received as information with no votes taken. Minutes of the February 7 were accepted as printed.

**Friends of the Lexington County Museum Report:** Mr. Fennell gave the report of the Friends in the absence of Karen Parrish. He reported that approximately 175 attended the Museum Gala fund raiser held on March 25 and that in addition to the \$150.00 raised in the silent auction, approximately \$11,000 had been raised. Costs for the event had not been deducted from this total. The identified projects for the gala funds are roof repairs on the Koon Home and the loom room. The Friends will host the Spring Open House on Sunday, May 7 from 2:00 - 5:00. Extra venues will include a blacksmith, wheelwright, soap making and possible woodworking.

**Old Business:** The herb festival held on April 1 was very successful with activities in different areas on the museum grounds and a count of 584 attending. "Murders and Mysteries" continues to be a popular evening program. A portable speaker system has been added to help correct the sound concerns. Mr. Fennell and museum the staff have been involved in speaking engagements with one in Swansea and another at the Lexington County Library on quilts. The quilt program is to be repeated in Swansea. Also presentations at the Sons of the American Revolution, Optimist Club and at the Museum Gala as well as at the Ellington Agriculture Center have been given by Mr. Fennell.

The research library continues to be a working project. The bookshelves are together and there is a table with rug in the area. Books from the museum's collections have been shelved.

Mr. Fennell continues to be in contact with the Younginer family concerning the Center Colored School located on Spring Hill Road.

Bids will go out on April 4th for the construction of outside restrooms near the Horace Harmon Exhibit Hall. The open bidding period is 30 days. The restrooms are to be contained in a separate building to the right side of the exhibit hall. The County made the placement decision based on the existing water and sewer lines.

Repairs continue on the Lawrence Corley Cabin. Mr. Fennell also reported that the museum has a full staff at this time.

**Monthly Reports:** The monthly report was reviewed and accepted as information. Included in the report was a numerical breakdown for the past 11 years of the total attendance, paying visitors, and non-school group attendance year by year.

**New Business:** Mr. Fennell reported that the museum newsletter has a circulation of 400 through email and that the museum's Facebook site has 18,000 likes. The County is using Facebook to support the museum with subject specific videos. The series is called "Lexington County through the Ages." It first aired on February 9, 2017 and focused on World War I with hands-on items donated by the Benjamin Tillman Meetze family. On March 23rd the second focused on the county's alcohol history. The third on April 8th explored pre-Civil War firearms produced by two families in the County. These videos have received many likes and shares. By April 4th the first had been viewed 3500 times and the second 2500 times.

A third "Murders and Mysteries" is planned for June 10th. Plans for repairing the fence at the museum are being made. The Midlands Gives philanthropic event will be held May 2nd. Last year approximately \$1,700 was raised for the museum.

**Acquisitions:** The following items were presented to the commission: Ten issues of *Peterson's Ladies National Magazine*, dated 1880-1884, donated by Rose Stuart (Mrs. Hardwick Stuart); a 19th century cast iron pot, yellow ware bowl (donated by Stanley Hite) and a chamber pot all three for the educational collection to be used for cooking/educational programs; two vests from ca. 1870 belonging to Simeon Wheeler who lived in Lexington donated by Kay Wheeler Hughes; the African American Colored Fair Assoc. annual flier honoring the 55th Anniversary, October 26-31, 1959 in Columbia donated by Barbara Padgett and a copy of *The Red Bank Progress*, 1946-1952 donated by Laura McMahan for the reading and research library.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura S. McMahan, Secretary for the Commission