

LEXINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM COMMISSION MINUTES

October 3, 2017

Members Present: Bill Kiesling, Edie Harmon, Joyce Mize, Jim Riddle, Cathy Stutts and Laura McMahan

Members Absent: Mary Sharpe (family illness), SaBrina Jeffcoat, and Rhett Inabinett

Others Present: J. R. Fennell, Director

Commission Chairman Bill Kiesling called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Roll was taken and a quorum was present. The minutes of August 1, 2017 were accepted unanimously as printed with Joyce Mize making the motion that was seconded by Edie Harmon.

Friends of the Lexington County Museum Report: With the absence of Friends President Sylvia Clyburn, Edie Harmon reported that the Museum Gala scheduled for February 17, 2018 will celebrate the Lexington County Swiss German Heritage. The event will take place at town hall from 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm. The Christmas Open House will be December 10th (Sunday), 1:00 - 4:00.

Old Business: J. R. Fennell, Director of the Museum reported on the following events:

The final of the three Hands-on History summer programs was held on August 12th with 12 children attending. These activities for young school aged children are matched with the public school standards of instruction and are held only during the summer months.

The August 21st Eclipse Event was a huge success with some 400 to 500 people representing approx. 17 states. Moon Pies and water were available. The Astronomy Club of Augusta provided activities for those attending. There was much positive feedback and yielded about \$700.00 for the Friends of the Lexington County Museum through gift shop sales and donations.

Director Fennell will be speaking at the Lexington County Main Library on October 24th and November 28th at 6:30 pm. The October topic is Superstitions of the Dutch Fork region. The November topic will be Lexington County during World War I.

The Snow Ball Festival for children will be held on December 1st in conjunction with the Town of Lexington's opening of the Christmas season. The museum will have a table at this event.

The Lexington County volunteer project for the 911 employees will be to paint the fence on Fox Street. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

Our annual Halloween celebration will be held on October 26th and 27th with tours starting at 7:00, 8:00 and 9:00 pm. Prior registration is encouraged and information is available in multiple sources including Facebook. The Town of Lexington Main Street Murders and Mysteries will be held on October 28th at 8:00 pm.

The annual Christmas Open House will be held on December 10th from 1:00 - 4:00 pm, sponsored by the Friends of the Museum. The event is free to the public and the buildings are decorated for the holiday season.

The following construction updates were also given to the commission by Director Fennell:

The County is to begin construction on the restrooms near the Horace Harmon Exhibit Hall on Monday, October 9th.

The roofs of the Loom Room, Koon House, and the Fox House will be replaced by the County. This is scheduled for some time this year. The repair work on the porch of the Laurence Corley Cabin has been completed. The steps are to be reset before the cabin can be reopened to the public.

Director Fennell reported that he spoke at the Main Branch of the Lexington County Library on September 26th. At this time he addressed information about the National Historical Register. The goal was to assist the public in understanding the guide lines and restrictions for a structure to be on the National Register. The two buildings on the National Register at the museum are the Fox House and the Hazelius House.

Director Fennell continues to reach out to the Younginer family concerning the relocation of the Central African-American School.

Monthly Reports: The larger numbers for August's visitation reflects the attendance on August 21st at the Eclipse activities at the museum. The motion to accept the report as information was made by Jim Riddle and seconded by Edie Harmon. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Chairman Kiesling requested the commission's support for his writing a letter to members whose absent from bi-monthly commission meetings exceeded the attendance requirements as stated in the by-laws. Their habitual absences creates a void for the commission. This discussion was a continuation from the prior meeting when member Joyce Mize brought to the commission's attention that there were members in violation of the commission's by-laws. The commission agreed that there is an expectation when accepting an appointment to attend the meetings of the commission.

Director Fennell presented a request from the descendent of the Leaphart - Harman family to hold a family reunion at the family home on the museum grounds. The reunion would include food and drink in the home as well as the grounds. Following discussion on the request, it was agreed that the home would be available for touring. The consensus was that the building, as museum property, was not available for a private meeting.

Museum director Fennell will meet with the county's IS Department about obtaining wireless internet for the museum. This will be a great assistance for those doing active research.

Acquisitions: A pair of sugar nippers was donated by Horace Harmon. Two carriages, now located in the carriage house, were donated by Betty Baird. The motion to accept all acquisitions was made by Joyce Mize and seconded by Edie Harmon. The motion passed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45. The next meeting will be held December 5, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura S. McMahan, Secretary