

Historic Bath Foundation, Inc.
Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2012
Bath Town Hall
1200-100pm

Chairman Surry Everett welcomed everyone. A quorum was determined. Present directors: Surry, Gene, Karen, Jerry, Robin, Betsy, Mariann. One vacant seat. Absent: Jim. Ex-officio directors: present: Leigh. Absent: Jimmy and Bill. The chairman asked if everyone had a chance to review the draft minutes. There were no questions or corrections. None opposed. Approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

It was agreed to dispense with repeating the Treasurer's report since we had just reviewed it at the general membership meeting.

Reports of Officers

President: Surry mentioned that a lot of the items on the agenda were covered at the general membership meeting and that we will forego duplicate discussion.

Vice President: Gene expressed that it took mailing the proxy cards out four times before we received a quorum. He thinks it will take the same strategy for gaining new members and that we should be sending membership invitations out many times throughout the year. Mariann expressed that it is an expensive proposition. Gene also recommended that we do another personalized letter writing campaign. Jerry and Mariann agreed and each board member agreed they would try to gain ten new members. Gene expressed that we need supplies (letterhead, brochures, etc.). Karen said she would send out a target list for everyone to choose prospective members from and she will also send the cost of supplies.

Secretary: Karen asked to include the email vote/motion for the Glebe House Grant to be included in these minutes as follows: Motion per Blanche, Second by Gene. None opposed.

HBF Board Members, I have read John Wood's interim report and would like to second Blanche's motion that \$10,000 be granted for the restoration of the Glebe House with these provisions: that the money be dispersed, as was the case with the Bonner House garden, when bills for completed work are presented to our treasurer; and with the understanding that each phase of the overall Glebe restoration will be cleared through the State Office of Historic Preservation in Greenville. It is, as Bea Latham has noted, one of the oldest structures in Bath. It deserves our support. I hope that the foundation, St. Thomas Church, and the Historic Bath Commission can all work together to get it listed on the National Register of Historic Places. All best, Gene Roberts

Reports of Committees

Nominating Committee: Karen shared that we have one vacant seat (Blanche's 2011-2014) which the BOD will fill at our next meeting.

Small Grants: none.

Membership Committee: discussion as above.

Museum: Gene reported that we could have a gallery in the BHS connector hallway of approximately 1000sq as early as December 2013. The High School is preparing to restore and utilize the area for exhibits, art, hand-crafts, and gatherings which is exactly how it was envisioned five years ago in the feasibility study. I recommend that we partner with BHSP to discuss the possible costs, designs and exhibit cabinetry needed. We could easily have an exhibit of Showboat, historical etchings, maps, weapons, Indian artifacts, photographs, pottery, and temporary exhibits from the state. At a minimum, it could be operated on days that the Visitor Center is closed. We don't know if the State or Commission will want to join. It is doubtful but this is the first step to get the town a museum it deserves. The Site came about due to concerned citizens who took action and then the State came along later. Are you agreeable for the museum committee to meet with the BHSP committee to plan and obtain costs which we could probably gather by the 1st quarter of next year. Mariann asked if the library will be renting their space and paying for their utilities. Gene said yes. Mariann asked who would pay for these specifics for the gallery? Gene said it would be worked out by the committees and they may recommend an admission fee. There has been some discussion about also naming the gallery and possible sponsorship. The display cabinets are another thing and the Foundation could utilize them in another location once the larger museum strategy is established. The full board gave strong expression of interest in moving forward with the possibility.

Fund Raising/Finance Committee: none

Historic Research/curriculum: none

Historic Research: none

Public Relations: none

HBF Promotions: Gene shared that we have been in contact with Senator White regarding DOT signs along HWY 17 and we are awaiting a response from him as to which of the three options he offered will be available.

Program Development: none

Collaboration: none

Comprehensive Walking Tour Brochure: none

Report of Ex-officio Directors

Mayor of Bath: absent

Chairman Historic Bath Commission: absent

Manager Historic Bath State Historic Site: none

Old and Unfinished Business

Bath High School: none

Lawson Walk phase: none

Bonner House Garden: none

BHS tenancy: Gene shared that BHSP has raised 85,000 of the funds needed to qualify for the 250,000 funds from Golden LEAF. In addition, they were awarded the PNC Steadman Award of 10,000. This moves the library closer to becoming a tenant.

Restoration: Gene asked that we send Len Willson's father a letter regarding our concern for those structures on Main Street. The letter would ask him to keep us informed, ask for 1st refusal option, and assist in finding someone to restore them. The full board agreed.

National Register: Gene shared that St. Thomas is currently individually listed on the National Register. It would elevate Bath's status by being able to say that Bath has 5-6 structures individually listed on the register. Is there someone in the churches who could take a lead? We could meet with them. The Board expressed interest in inquiring if there is an interest.

New Business

Nominating Committee: Karen shared the following slate of officers: President/Surry, Vice President/Gene, Treasurer/Mariann, Secretary/Karen. Full board concurred.

Jerry mentioned we should give the Fire Department a donation for all their assistance at the raffle. 1,000.00 was agreed upon by the full board.

Meeting was adjourned by the Chairman with no objections.

Next quarterly meeting is scheduled for October 26, 3-5pm. Bath Town Hall.

Submitted

Karen Sayer
Secretary