

Heritage Alliance
Of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia

Board of Trustees Meeting
February 26, 2024, 5:30 pm
Community Room, Visitors Center, Jonesborough, TN

Attending: Charlene Cleveland, Fred Counts, Dana Ensor, Hal Hunter, Meghan Kieta, Cari Jarman, Gordon Edwards, Frank Collins.

Absent: Mark Edmond, Nick Andrews

Staff: Megan Cullen Tewell

The meeting was called to order by President Fred Counts at 5:35 PM

Public: No one requested public comment.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the following meetings were presented for approval:
Called Meeting, November 6, 2023.

Approved with no exceptions.

Regular Meeting of November 20, 2024.

Approved with correction of spelling error.

eMeeting, November 27, 2023

Approved with no exceptions.

eMeeting, January 5, 2024

Approved with no exceptions.

eMeeting, January 12, 2024

Approved with no exceptions.

eMeeting, January 17, 2024

Approved with no exceptions.

Annual Membership Meeting, February 1, 2024

Approved with correction of date noted.

Annual Trustee Meeting, February 1, 2024.

Approved with change of date and time noted.

Treasurers Report:

Dana Ensor presented the Treasurers report and Financial Statements for the first quarter of the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023.

The Alliance is operating in a positive position with a Net Ordinary Income of \$815 for the quarter. Discussion of ways to improve the Progressive Dinner and possibly make it mor positive ensued. With ticket sales and donations total revenue was \$10,860.00. The downside is the amount of physical effort involved by the volunteers to manage the dinner. Questions regarding locations and logistics of moving attendees were raised. Is the amount raised by HA a good return on the funding required?

Dana announced that Megan has declined the health insurance which will be a savings to HA.

Directors Report:

Ex. Director Dr. Megan Tewell presented the Directors Report. Numbers for attendance and volunteer hours were still being processed for January and February.

The Chester Inn Museum will open for the season on March 1. The search for a new Docent is progressing. Town tours will begin on March 16, 2024. A combined volunteer and town tour guide meeting will be held from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on March 16, 2024. New volunteers are needed for the Chester Inn and HA. Megan is working on a campaign to recruit new volunteers.

Dr. Tewell has joined the Chuckey Depot Advisory Board and the Exhibition Subcommittee. Training for new docents will take over be taken over by the WVRRA. Due to time restraints on HA staff, Dr. Tewell has proposed moving to one rotating exhibit per year. Part-time staff have been committing 10% to 15% of their time to the Depot program. This time is not within their job descriptions.

The Storytelling Guild plans to open the Christopher Taylor House every fourth Saturday from April thru November from 11:00AM to 2:00 PM. Weather permitting.

For the JWCHMA, processing of human remains in our collections is resuming through the Tennessee State Museum for the NAGPRA process. A status update to the management software (Past Perfect) is pending. HA is awaiting a \$15,000 check payment from the Tennessee State Museum for a Title 6 grant. This will allow for the hiring of contractors to process our collections.

There is a need for additional schoolmarms/schoolmasters for the Oak Hill School.

Exterior painting and wood repair on the Duncan House is complete. There is a roof leak on the front porch which Pres. Fred Counts is following.

Gordon Edwards has made several repairs to the roof of the Architectural Salvage Warehouse to prepare for opening on April 1, 2024. A long term plan is needed for better repairs or replacement.

Staff Updates:

Ms. Amy Steadman Dewitt has resigned as Collections Manager and Museum Coordinator effective February 27, 2024.

Samuel Bowen continues as an AmeriCorps worker until August 16, 2024.

Other Business:

There are 165 pre-orders for the Jonesborough Specialty Plate. An extension has been requested.

Washington Farm Proposal – Unity Housing has requested HA partnership and logo use regarding historical research into the Washington County Farm property.

HA has a permanent seat on the Main Street Board and a member of the HA board is needed to fill that seat.

Both part-time positions are vacant and finding qualified candidates is difficult. The major factor is the part-time nature of the positions.

Megan Kieta, Gordon Edwards, and Charlene Cleveland have agreed to serve on a Strategic Planning Committee along with Dr. Tewell to engage in long-range organizational planning.

Dr. Tewell will continue to work on collaboration with the Langston Centre in creating a Black History Walking Tour for Johnson City.

A list of items for deaccession was presented for the board's consideration and approval. The current list was deferred until the next regular board meeting, Monday, May 27, 2024.

New Business:

Fred Counts introduced the Title VI Compliance Program, Title VI Policy for Board Approval. Approved unanimously.

Board members were reminded to sign the Conflict of Interest Policy and the Whistleblower Policy. These need to be returned to Dr. Tewell.

Fred Counts reported that Anne Mason has been proposed by Mayor Vest as the new Mayor's Representative for the Town of Jonesborough. This will be discussed further at future meetings. This also brought up the Creative Works proposal that Anne had presented but had not been voted on. Referring to past minutes of the November 6, 2023, meeting it was noted that Mark Edmonds was to

work on a revised document which has not been reviewed. Major questions concerned the use of “Spot on the Hill”.

Discussion of the roof issue for the Salvage Warehouse ensued and it was determined that this should be deferred to our next meeting. Gordon Edwards shared a general history of the warehouse and how HA had acquired it.

Fred also raised a question of appointed members serving as an officer of the board. Is this a good option or should our by-laws be changed?

The next meeting date is Monday, May 27, 2024, 5:30

Meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal Hunter, Secretary