

## **HISTORIC DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 11, 2008**

The Van Buren Historic District Commission held its monthly meeting Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 5:30 P.M. in the Court Room of the Municipal Complex. The following items were on the agenda:

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting
2. Randy Smith, liaison for City of Van Buren for Fairview Cemetery  
To address commission
3. Any other business that comes before this commission

PRESENT:            Vickie Davis, Chairman  
                       Dwight Hopkins, Vice-Chairman  
                       John Symonds  
                       Paul Gibson  
                       Jody Rhoads  
                       Cami Brown, Recording Secretary  
                       Randy Smith, Edwards Van-Alma

Chairman Vickie Davis called this meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. First order of business was approval of minutes from the last meeting. Jody Rhoads made a motion to accept the minutes as written, John Symonds seconded that motion and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

At this time Randy Smith, liaison for City of Van Buren and Fairview Cemetery addressed the board. Mr. Smith commented Mr. Jim Edwards, owner of Edwards Funeral Home, was unable to attend this meeting, but had given Mr. Smith permission to speak for Mr. Edwards at this time. Mr. Smith commented the commission might note that Jim Edwards sits on the Oak Cemetery board in Fort Smith, and they are very active in preservation. He commented they have about a \$40,000.00 preservation budget they manage. Mr. Smith went on to comment that he and Mr. Edwards always try to find things to do to give back to the community. Mr. Edwards attended the last Tales of the Crypt that was presented at the Fairview Cemetery in October of this year, and after the production, approached Mr. Smith about adopting the remaining monuments in the Wallace plot and cleaning them up. (Note: One monument in the Wallace plot was restored when a tree limb fell and destroyed it. This monument was repaired by Norton Arts with preservation grant funds Randy Smith applied for and received.) HDC reviews all work that is done at Fairview, so Mr. Smith was bringing this to them for review. Mr. Smith commented what they would like to do is bring in Norton Arts and have them show Jim Edwards and Randy Smith how to use the architectural cleaners they use to clean monuments with the cleaners they use that have been approve by the Department of

Interior. The proposal is for this group of funeral homes to adopt the Wallace plot, clean the monuments in this plot, hopefully get some press from it and promote the idea throughout the community to draw interest to the project. Mr. Smith commented the funeral home group would provide the cleaner to anyone willing to adopt a monument or plot of monuments to clean, and Mr. Edwards or Mr. Smith would personally meet with individuals or groups and teach them the process passed on to them by Norton Arts. John Symonds commented he thought this was a wonderful idea, his only questions was who would oversee the project, assigning what properties needed to be cleaned, etc. Randy Smith commented he would be glad to oversee this project, and he would include a list of monuments in this proposal for this project. It was also agreed this project would include, with approval of AHPP, placing plaques with volunteer names in the cemetery to give recognition to people that become involved. After some discussion, a motion was made by Dwight Hopkins to approve this project pending approval from easement coordinator in Little Rock. This motion was given a second by Jody Rhoads and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Next was discussion of NAPC Code of Ethics, something the HDC up until this time has never voted on and put in place for this commission. This is a legality the commission needs to address. This is one of the items that needs to be in place for proposed CLG program, and something commissions need to have in place. This will need to be reviewed by city attorney, and will be tacked on to our ordinance. Mr. Hopkins will be discussing with the city attorney. After some review and discussion, a motion was made by John Symonds to accept NAPC Code of Ethics, with approval of city attorney and city council, for this commission. This motion was seconded by Dwight Hopkins, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Next was discussion of some items for the commission to review and bring back to the table for the next meeting, one being the consideration of a name change for the commission from Historic District Commission to either “Historic Preservation Commission” or “Historic Resources Preservation Commission”. Dwight Hopkins brought this to the commission due to the ever changing preservation efforts in our city. The commission discussed this, and this will be discussed again at the January meeting. The other item that Mr. Hopkins addressed the commission about was the pamphlet for the HDC he has been working on. The commissioners looked over the pamphlet, and Mr. Hopkins commented he would email to the commissioners to review, and add to or make changes wherever they saw fit. The commission will review this again in January, and the pamphlet will go to print when the final decision is made on this project.

With no other business, Paul Gibson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by John Symonds, and the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

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Vickie Davis, Chairman

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Cami L. Brown, Rec. Sec.