

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING

FEBRUARY 11, 2010

The Van Buren Historic District held its monthly meeting Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Room of the Municipal Complex. The following items were on the agenda:

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting
2. Q. and A. Session with Joe Shipman of Arkansas Highway Dept. concerning signage
3. Presentation by Randy Smith concerning restoration work to monuments in Fairview Cemetery
4. Discussion of commission's agenda for 2010
5. Review/discussion of Fairview Cemetery Guidelines
6. Any other business that comes before this commission

PRESENT: Vickie Davis, Chairperson
Dwight Hopkins, Vice-Chairperson
John Symonds
Paul Gibson
Cami Brown, Recording Secretary
Maryl Koeth, A & P Commission
Joe Shipman, Arkansas Highway Department
Randy Smith

This meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Chairperson Vickie Davis. First item for consideration was approval of minutes from the last meeting. A motion was made by Dwight Hopkins to approve minutes as written, motion was seconded by Paul Gibson and the motion carried a unanimous vote.

The next item in front of this commission was a question/answer session with Arkansas Highway Dept. representative Joe Shipman in regard to signage along state roads. Joe addressed the commission about the historic downtown signs that are presently in place. The commission brought up location for signs directing to available parking for the downtown area. Maryl Koeth of A & P was present at this meeting and after some discussion Maryl commented getting

direction to people, especially RV traffic, in time to make the proper route without causing issues was one thing needing to be addressed. Maryl Koeth commented she will do a drive to see what locations that are not in State Highway right of ways are feasible for signage. John Symonds suggested approaching Brad Baldwin and Wes Cleland for mapping showing the city roads that could handle this traffic. Joe commented that there is a possibility to leave up some existing signs by getting written permission, and Mr. Shipman commented writing the Environmental Dept. of the State Highway for this. John Symonds commented getting the mapping and marking potential places for signage, then taking it to Joe Shipman to see what is permissible. This is the procedure the commission decided to take, and will pursue this.

Next item addressed was presentation by Randy Smith on preservation projects for Fairview Cemetery. Randy asked the permission of the commission to proceed with the funds from Tales of the Crypt to restore the Eliza Clemm Monument. The total cost of this restoration would be \$1,000.00. Randy Smith has taken care of delivery and return of this item, and Norton will be working on this at their leisure. The agreement is to have it back in place in time for the next Tales of the Crypt event.

Cami Brown commented in a discussion with Mayor Bob Freeman she was informed that as far as the city's one preservation a year that was promised for Fairview, the city set aside \$10,000.00 for this and what work Mr. Smith could do with this funding he had permission to proceed. The project which Randy Smith informed the commission he would like to work on with the city funding would be restoration of the Mystery Grave in Fairview. Randy got an estimate from Norton on this project, and the cost would be \$2,825.00. Mr. Smith does not have an estimate of price at this time for the fencing to go around this grave. Mr. Smith was pleased to know funds are available and stated this preservation could be done easily with this. At this time he commented he might be able to take on more preservation with these funds. The Para Lee Stewart monument and the carriage mount step outside the cemetery were both discussed. Estimates will be requested on those projects. Randy Smith also informed the commission that Edwards-Fentress Funeral Homes are seeking permission to adopt and conservation clean all 10 monuments as well as supports for fencing and steps of the Judge Jesse Turner Family Plot. He also informed the HDC that Kiwanis K-Kids will be taking on several monuments for conservation cleaning as a community project in the spring of this year. John Symonds made a motion to allow Randy Smith to proceed with all the projects discussed, Paul Gibson gave this motion a second and this motion carried a unanimous vote.

The Fairview Cemetery Guidelines were the next item discussed. After some comments were taken a motion was made by John Symonds to accept the Fairview Guidelines and recommend them on to the Mayor and City Council for approval. Dwight Hopkins seconded this motion and this motion carried a unanimous vote.

At this time this meeting was adjourned.

Vickie Davis, Chairperson

Cami L. Brown, Rec. Sec.