

Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

6:30 p.m.

City of Montevallo Council Chambers

MINUTES

Members present: J. Jones, V. Johnson, J. Lutz, K. King, G. Reese and A. Sims.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Old Business:

The minutes from the October 6, 2020 meeting were read. V. Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes as read, J. Lutz seconded; motion passed.

Chair J. Jones announced that Kenny Dukes is the new city council representative for the Historic Preservation Commission.

Chair J. Jones reported that the current Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission By-Laws are on the City of Montevallo website.

The group discussed amending meeting dates to quarterly meetings, and special called meetings as needed. J. Lutz made a motion to amend the meeting dates, K. King seconded; motion passed.

New Business:

New member G. Reece abstained from voting.

Chair J. Jones asked members to consider accepting offices on the board. J. Lutz volunteered to serve as Vice President, A. Sims volunteered to continue to serve as secretary. V. Johnson made a motion to accept officers, K. King seconded, motion passed. J. Jones made a motion to accept V. Johnson as assistant secretary, J. Lutz seconded, motion passed.

Talks about the African American Heritage Trail have been on the table a few years. The trail will highlight different areas of African American history in the area, for example, Prentice High School originally known as the Negro High School.

K. King reported on the Oral History Project. This is a project that will allow people of color to share their stories in their own words and voices. K. King reported that this is important because black voices were and are not represented in print sources about African American History. She also reported that there are people who have made small scale impacts on the civil right movement. For example, many people may not know that Montevallo native Rev. A. L. Jones, is responsible for African American's becoming cashiers in Montevallo stores.

G. Reese reported that the Parnell Memorial Library has acquired a substantial number of books about African Americans in the Civil War which they hope to unveil during Black History Month.

Membership Recommendation: J. Lutz has a recommendation and will have that individual send their cover letter and resume' to Chair J. Jones.

J. Lutz recommended a Projection Project featuring African American artwork that can be projected onto buildings.

Other:

Chair J. Jones suggested we work with other city boards to celebrate and recognize Black History Month.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12, at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

6:30 p.m.

City Council Chambers

AGENDA

Call to order

Reading of the minutes

Old Business:

- Confirmation of meeting times for the new year
- Site confirmation for the African American Historic Trail
- Black History Celebration events

New Business:

Other Business

Adjournment

Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

6:30 p.m.

City of Montevallo Council Chambers

MINUTES

Members present: J. Jones, V. Johnson, G. Reece and A. Sims.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Old Business:

The minutes from the November 10, 2020 meeting were read. G. Reece made a motion to accept the minutes as read, V. Johnson seconded; motion passed.

Kenny Dukes is the new city council representative for the Historic Preservation Commission.

The Commission amended meeting dates to quarterly. Meeting dates for 2021 are as follows: April 13, July 13, and October 12, at 6:30 p.m. Location to be announced. V. Johnson made a motion to accept amended meeting dates, G. Reece seconded; motion passed.

Chair J. Jones recommended Montevallo Middle School (former Prentice High School) as the beginning site of the African American Historic Trail. Discussed purchasing a plaque to designate the site as the start of the trail.

Chair J. Jones will reach out to the new mayor and city council to find out if any events are planned for Black History Month to determine how the Historic Commission can participate in the events. Chair Jones suggested featuring a different local African American author each week. Also, V. Johnson suggested displaying aerial photos of the early town.

New Business:

Chair J. Jones asked commission members to think about a Summer Project to recommend at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

AGENDA

Call to order

Reading of the minutes

Old Business:

- ❖ African American Heritage Trail
- ❖ Oral History Project

New Business:

- ❖ New member introductions
- ❖ Cemetery Project

Other Business:

Adjournment:

Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

6:30 p.m.

City of Montevallo Council Chambers

MINUTES

Members present: J. Jones, V. Johnson, G. Reece, J. Lutz, J. Seaman and A. Sims.

Guest present: Mayor Rusty Nix, Bobby Pierson

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Old Business:

The January 12, meeting minutes were read and J. Lutz made a motion to accept, G. Reece seconded; motion passed.

The creation of an African American Heritage Trail in Montevallo was proposed a few years earlier and approved by the former mayor. Chair Jones distributed historical trail information to the commission. The plan is to begin the trail at Montevallo Middle School, the former Montevallo Negro High School, later known as Prentice High School. The second site on the trail will be Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, and the third site is Ward's Chapel A.M.E. Church. It is proposed that the sites are marked by semi-permanent signage at a cost of approximately \$1,000 each. An anonymous donor has agreed to cover the cost of the signage. Justin Lutz volunteered to work with UM graphic artist professor Mr. Min Sun Lee to design the signage.

Kathy King and Anita Sims will research Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church history, baptismal records and photos.

Visitor Bobby Pierson suggested looking into naming the gymnasium at Montevallo Middle School "Prentice Activity Center," in honor of the school's history.

Oral History Project: Item not discussed.

New Business:

Mayor Rusty Nix suggested the commission assist with completing the Mahler House Project. He will meet with Chair Jones to discuss how the commission can assist.

New member introductions: Janice Seaman was introduced as the newest member of the commission.

Cemetery Project: V. Johnson presented the Cemetery Project to the commission. It will be uploaded to the city website when completed.

Janice Seaman will look into getting the Powell Cemetery at Orr Park deeded to the City of Montevallo.

Alabama Historical Commission: Commission members are required to attend two (2) continuing education events per year.

A Special Meeting of the commission is scheduled for Tuesday, June 8, at 6:30 p.m.

Valerie Johnson made a motion to adjourn, Kathy King seconded, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission
Tuesday, June 8, 2021
6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Special Called Meeting

AGENDA

Call to order

Reading of the minutes

Old Business:

- ❖ African American Heritage Trail
- ❖ Oral History Project

New Business:

- ❖ Mahler House Project

Other Business:

Adjournment:

Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission
Tuesday, June 8, 2021
6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Special Called Meeting

AGENDA

Members present: J. Jones, V. Johnson, G. Reece, J. Lutz, J. Seaman and A. Sims.

Call to order: 6:30

Reading of the minutes: no changes

Motion to accept the minutes: K. King

Second: G Reese

Old Business:

- ❖ African American Heritage Trail
 - Report from Kathy King: Dr. King made contact with the archivist of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church and with Carey Heatherly (UM Archivist) interviewed Kathleen Boyd Lathan about Joseph Prentiss (for whom the middle school is named) and the school itself
 - J. Seaman reports that the Oral History project (late 1970s and early 1980s, from a CETA grant) also interviewed her; the transcripts might be in the Shelby County Museum / Archives in the Old Courthouse in Columbiana (and if not there, then in the Alabama State Archives in Montgomery). Ms. Seaman will try to contact Marty Evers, who also worked on the project
- ❖ Oral History Project
 - Noting that the AAHT interview is merging into the OHP: Ms. Lathan was able to discuss the significance of the church and Prentiss in connection with the school
 - Suggestion to add a marker at an additional AAHT site (that was revealed due to OHP interview): a 2 room schoolhouse for Black students, located at the alley that leads to Luma Dentistry off Island Street

New Business:

- ❖ Discussion of potentially requesting some Federal Stimulus funding for MHPC projects, such as the AAHT banners; would require accounting and presentation to the council

- ❖ Mahler House Project: J. Seaman reports that she visited with Steve Gilbert and that there is a lot of work to be done yet - that Kevin Hughes and Brad Davis will develop a scope of work plan; with the potential change of use (placement of the Chamber of Commerce), the architect Rob Walker will also have to develop plans. The building firm that had been handling the project is departing - essentially, no one has overseen the work. Suggestion or question that Shane Ball, who is the head of Parks and Rec (since that would be a normal function), should provide the oversight (or should have? unclear from notes).
 - Note: it would be very irregular for the MHPC to do the actual oversight itself; G. Reese points out that this would be unprecedented in his experience
 - Consulting and advice on historic character and elements within the scope of historic preservation commissions, but not hands-on project management or capital works improvements
 - Division 6: Historic Preservation, link to MHPC mandate: https://library.municode.com/al/montevallo/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeid=COOR_CH2AD_ARTVIBOCOCO_DIV6HIPR
 - After discussion, the MHPC determined that the Chair will recommend to the Mayor that he should appoint or task a member of the council or a city employee (preferably a relevant department head) to oversee this project. When historic details require review, the MHPC can consult and recommend actions.
 - The MHPC notes that - per precedent - the Mayor and council have the authority for any capital improvement project using City funds, and particularly for the Mahler Property Project
 - MHPC does not find it appropriate that the Commission oversee the project in terms of setting budgets, signing contracts, etc.
 - Given the complexities of the project and unclear desire / mandate by the Mayor from the prior meeting on 13 April, as well as the fact that there's a new change in use proposed by the Major (necessitating planning changes, on top of a change of builders), the matter is tabled.

Other Business:

- Chair J. Jones announces resignation: moving out of the Montevallo city limits, and thus ineligible for MHPC membership. Vice-Chair J. Lutz will take over as interim chair for the July 13 meeting. Chair Jones asks for those present to consider new members.

- Motion to accept and acknowledge the contents of the meeting: K. King; second V. Johnson

Motion to adjourn: J. Seaman; second J. Lutz

Adjournment: 7:02 pm

Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission
Tuesday, July 13, 2021
6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Special Called Meeting

AGENDA

Call to order

Approval of the minutes

Old Business:

- ❖ African American Heritage Trail Update
- ❖ Oral History Project Update

New Business:

- ❖ Suggestions for New Members

Other Business:

Adjournment: