

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