

Historic Commission Minutes

April 6, 2021

Vista 154 at Ironhorse Golf Club

Present: April Bishop, Janet O’Neal, Clara Van Draska, Alice Hawk, Rick Hadel, potential appointee Jim Huxtable and Staff Liaison Holly York.

April Bishop called the meeting to order at 4:36 pm. Jim was introduced.

I. Minutes

Alice Hawk moved and Rick Hadel seconded the motion for approval of the minutes from the September 15, 2020 meeting of the Historic Commission. All approved.

II. Finance Report

Alice reported that there is about \$3,300 in the account held by the Leawood Foundation.

III. Old Business

Memorial Bench Dedication for Charles Lusk

April thanked Alice for arranging the memorial bench dedication for Charles Lusk on November 21, 2020. She reported that Charles’ wife, Mary Anne, was very pleased with the dedication.

Linwood Pioneer Cemetery Update

April did not hear back from Denise Bullock in time for the meeting and there was no update for the Linwood Pioneer Cemetery. Clara Van Draska mentioned that she volunteered through the DAR for the National Day of Service in October to clean headstones at the cemetery.

Interviews

The team is moving forward with oral history interviews. Alice interviewed former Mayor, Everett Mealman. Janet O’Neal will send Alice a photo of him to attach to the interview. Contact April if you know anyone who should be interviewed, and she will send out the interview questions.

Historic Oxford Schoolhouse

April reported that the schoolhouse is now open for the season on Saturdays, 11:00 am-2:00pm. She let staff liaison, Holly York, know that an endcap and some shingles blew off the roof. Holly will inquire about getting the roof repaired and inspected.

Holly reported that the summer internship posting for the school marm/master position will close soon. The school marm/master will work at the schoolhouse this summer Tuesdays-Saturdays 10:00am-3:00pm. Docents will be at the schoolhouse on Sundays 1:00-3:00pm during the summer. She also mentioned that the City will still be offering the Schoolhouse Tales program for children in July. They hope to resume field trips in the fall.

Leawood 75th Anniversary Celebration in 2023

April said that historical events will be planned throughout the anniversary year. If we have a plan for the museum, events may be fundraisers. Holly reported that proposal submissions for potential authors of the companions book to *Leawood: A Portrait in Time*, are due on April 16, 2021.

IV. New Business

Historic Articles and Launch Teasers

April, Clara, and Janet have reached out to several different authors to write historical articles to celebrate the City's 75th anniversary. Articles will be posted every other week via the City's website and social media. The 26 articles will post throughout 2023, with social media teasers at the end of 2022. An objective of the articles is to engage and create dialogue with readers. Janet mentioned using interviews from former mayors Jean Wise and Marcia Rinehart for articles. Holly has requested to include stipends in the 2022 budget for the authors.

Rick suggested an article framing the restrictive covenants of early Leawood in a historical context. Clara agreed that this would be an important topic to address through an article. Rick will work on such an article and it was suggested he research Tom Leather's articles on Leawood.

Leawood Presbyterian Church

The Pastor of Leawood Presbyterian Church reached out to April for support for their 70th anniversary in 2022. It is the oldest, modern day church in Leawood. April is working on an article about churches in Leawood. Alice said she might have information on the Church and Jim Huxtable mentioned he knows someone who lived in the farmhouse now owned by the Church. April suggested that the Commission may want to put a historical plaque on the original church building.

Santa Fe Trail Anniversary

April reported that the Santa Fe Trail 200th Anniversary Commemoration in 2021 has been extended through 2025. We hope to feature several lectures. April attended an online lecture about the Brides of the Santa Fe Trail. Clara mentioned that the Majors House is also involved in the commemoration as the trail runs through their property. Alexander Majors would keep his livestock on the Kansas side of the state line to avoid taxes.

96th and Lee Report

Holly reported that plans for a new Fire Station No. 1 have been approved by the Governing Body. Plans for converting Old City Hall to a museum are at least five years out. No plans can be made to fundraise yet.

Covid-19 Report

City Hall

Holly reported that City Hall is still closed to the public and does not know when it will reopen, The Lodge will open in May with restrictions.

Upcoming Events

Holly reported the following:

- The art dedication of *Women of the World* by Kwan Wu will be Friday, April 23rd at 4:00pm at the Leawood Justice Center
- Free KC Symphony Ensemble concert at the North Field of Tomahawk Park (119th and Tomahawk Creek Pkwy) on Friday, May 21 at 6:30pm

- Leawood Stage Company is holding auditions on April 10 and 11 for the summer production of Seussical, with the performances at the Amphitheater running July 9,10,11, & 15, 16, 17, 8:00 pm nightly
- Leawood Stage Company is hosting National Dance Day at the Ironwoods Amphitheater on April 17 at 11:30am
- Summer art camp enrollment is going well
- Grinnin' and Groovin' concert series for children will be Tuesdays in June at Ironwoods Amphitheater at 9:30am
- Cinema in the City will feature family movies at the amphitheater located behind City Hall. "The Little Rascals" will show on June 11 and "Babe" on July 30 at dusk
- A special children's concert by Latin Grammy Winner 1,2,3 Andres will be held on August 21 at Ironwoods Amphitheater at 6:00pm
- Summer Sounds Concert Series features the band Everyday Strangers on August 13 at 6:30pm and the KC Latin Jazz Orchestra on August 27 at 6:30pm at the amphitheater behind City Hall.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 15, 4:30-5:30pm location TBD.

The meeting adjourned at 5:26pm

Submitted by: Holly York, Cultural Arts Supervisor