

Union County Historic Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting
February 27, 2014

The Union County Historic Preservation Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2014, at 1:30 pm in the Heritage Room located in the historic Union County Courthouse, Monroe, North Carolina.

Present: Dr. Jerry Surratt, John Dickerson, Jane Ellickson, Steven Long, Barbara Moore,
Absent: Dale Loberger, Crystal Crump
Also Present: Mary Lou Gamble, Staff; Virginia Bjorlin, Historical Society

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jerry Surratt, Chairman.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Surratt asked if there were additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 7, 2013 meeting. There were none. Mrs. Moore made motion that the minutes be approved. Mr. Long seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Financial Report

Mrs. Gamble said that we have received both the City and the County Budget appropriations for the second quarter 2014. The financial report was presented and approved unanimously.

Old Business

Dr. Surratt asked Mrs. Moore to contact Jack Clay and review with him the letter that has been prepared regarding future exhibits in the historic Courthouse. After Mr. Clay's review, a special meeting of the Commission will be called to approve a final draft before the letter is sent to the Union County Board of Commissioners for review. Mr. Long made a motion to delay action on the letter until Jack Clay and Mrs. Moore meet. Mrs. Ellickson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Dr. Surratt referred to the study list of suggested properties for designation that was sent to each Commission member in November 2013. After the Commission members discussed properties from the list and referred to ***Sweet Union*** to see description (page noted below), properties recommended from the study list for possible designation were:

- County - 1. John Simpson House, ca 1878, Holly School Road, owner, Jimmy D. Godwin, pg. 303-304
2. Siler Church, ca 1895, Weddington Road, Wesley Chapel, pg. 191
3. Jacob Allen Deal House, ca 1909, Weddington Road, pg. 245-246
City - 1. Methodist Parsonage, ca 1886, 406 Windsor Street, pg. 117
2. Heath-Williamson-Neal House, ca 1874, 601 S. Church Street,
owners, Matt and Laura DeForest, pg. 91

Mr. Dickerson motioned to contact the owner of first property listed in County and in the City to ask if he would be interested in designating his property as an "Historic Landmark". If interested, the property owner will be invited to meet so the designation process can be explained and will be given a Designation Procedures Manual. Mrs. Ellickson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

New Business

Mr. Dickerson reported to the Commission that the Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers be elected to serve for the coming year on the Historic Preservation Commission. They are as follows:

Jerry Surratt - Chairman
Barbara Moore - Vice-Chairman

Crystal Crump - Secretary
John Dickerson - Treasurer

Dr. Surratt asked if there were nominations from the floor. There were none. Mr. Long seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Other Business

Regarding the museum, Dr. Surratt reported that he, representing the Historic Preservation Commission, Virginia Bjorlin representing the Historical Society, Barbara Moore representing the Carolinas Genealogical Society, and the museum consultant, Sidney Halma, have met with County officials to discuss plans for a museum in the historic courthouse. Dr. Surratt said that he feels there were positive feelings about the possibility of a museum in the historic courthouse, but the County has other financial obligations that must be met first. Dr. Surratt said that the County has commissioned a study that will provide an evaluation for restoration of the interior of the historic courthouse. The report from the study will be appraised before a museum can be considered. Mrs. Bjorlin noted that permission from the County Commissioners must be obtained before a museum organization can be formed. Then, grants can be written and a capital campaign can be held.

Staff Comments

Mrs. Gamble gave the following reports:

Budget requests for 2014-2015 were sent to the City of Monroe on January 30, and to Union County on February 26. The budget hearing for the City of Monroe will probably be around the middle of May. There will be a legal notice in the newspaper. The public hearing for Union County will be held on June 2.

Sheryl Hicks, Assistant Deputy Clerk for the City of Monroe, has been contacted about applications for the vacancy on the Commission. Ms. Hicks knew of one application. The selection committee will not meet until the third week in March.

Susan Drake called the Heritage Room regarding replacing railing on the balcony at the Marsh-McBride house, 306 Elm Street, Marshville, NC, which is a designated "Historic Landmark". The original railing is about 36" high and the commercial railing would be about 42" high. She contacted her insurance agent to see which would be acceptable. A packet containing a complete Designation Report, including an Application for Certificate of Appropriateness has been prepared for her.

As a member of National Trust for Historic Preservation, the commission was sent discount cards that can be used to book (online) participating hotels and can be used at various historic places. Commission members may use these cards if traveling.

Dr. Surratt announced that the next regular meeting will be May 1, 2014.

Respectively submitted,

Dr. Jerry Surratt, Chairman