

Pascagoula Historic Preservation Commission
P. O. Drawer 908
Pascagoula MS 39568-0908

Minutes 24 March 2021
City Council Chambers

Chairwomen Liz Ford called the regular monthly meeting of the Pascagoula Historic Preservation Commission to order at 12:05 PM.

Members Attending Barry McIlwain, Michele Gautier Lee, Tommy Wixon, Martin Hegwood, Liz Ford

Excused Members: Marcia Baumhauer, Walter Mansfield

Others Present: Dan Lee, Chris Wiggins, Katarina Luketich

On a motion by Michele G Lee, seconded by Tommy Wixon the minutes from the 24 February meeting were approved by those present.

Old Business:

- Buena Vista Historic District Status – no report
- Carver High School Landmark Status – no report
- Baptiste Tombs – Greenwood Cemetery – Tommy Wixon reporting:
 - o Wording for the memorial stone was discussed
 - o Father Adam would also like to fix the broken crosses, clean up the graves and build a permanent altar for All Souls Day Masses.
- Madame Pontabla & Gaston Pontabla's Exhibit – Tommy Wixon reporting
 - o The Library is now ¾'s open – as soon we know who will be in charge, can start making plans
- Downtown Historic District – Downtown Housing – Katarina reporting for Michele Coats and Rebecca Davis
 - o The Oddfellows Building apartments are expected to be completed in June
 - o The City Centre will start in 2 to 3 weeks; estimate one year construction
- LaPointe-Krebs House/LPK Foundation – Liz Ford reporting
 - The rededication ceremony will be on Saturday 15 May
- WWII Heritage City – Martin Hegwood reporting
 - Information is coming in fast
 - A Facebook group is being established for reposting information
 - Both high school history teachers (Resurrection and PHS) are very excited about using AP students to research newspapers of the era
 - Trying to get in touch with the right people at NPS to make sure we are on the right track
 - Dan Lee will have an updated power point presentation by the end of the week.
- Beach Blvd Photos – Barry McIlwain & Katarina Luketich reporting:
 - All of the photos will be ready to post on the city web site by tomorrow
- Pascagoula Depot – Kevin Hall – Katarina Luketich reporting:
 - Chris Chain will do an engineering study on the Depot and come up with dollar amount for restoration.
 - The City has \$375,000 for parking, lighting, ADA compliance
 - A meeting with the Legislators to discuss funding was very favorable

New Business

- Status HB1296, Senate Bill 2727 - Liz Ford reporting
 - o Looking good – the bill to change the way appointments are made to the MDAH Board of Trustees appears to be doomed, and the Historic Tax Credit Bill is on the fast track to passage.
- Nomination for MS Heritage Trust Board – Liz Ford reporting
 - o Nominations are due 16 April
 - o Anyone interested in serving a term is encouraged to send their resume to MHT
- Nominations for 10 Most Endangered
 - o Discussion and it was decided to nominate the Ice House, which the Maritime Museum is in negotiations to purchase

Other Business/Announcements/Discussions

- CLG Virtual Training – 11 AM on April 6, April 20, May 11 and May 25
 - o Michele Coats will observe the April 6 and May 11 sessions, and Liz will observe the April 20 & May 25 sessions, and report at the April and May meetings. We must attend at least three sessions.
 - o Anyone else is more than welcome to also participate – just need to know ahead of time in order to sign in
- Tommy Wixon reported a retired nurse Alix Carney has published an interesting book DEPORABLE TRAGEDY factually based on a segment of her family's history in Pascagoula during the late 1800's.
- Chris Wiggins mentioned Kat Bergeron would present a program Pirates of the Gulf Coast to the USM Adult Learning Group next Tuesday.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM. The next meeting will be April 28, 2021.

WORK PLANS FOR 2020- 2021:

- Continue pursuing National Register Historical District status for south Buena Vista
- Continue pursuing Mississippi Landmark Status for Carver High School
- Assist Main Street, wherever possible, in obtaining National Register Status for Downtown, or for individual buildings in the downtown district.
- Work with the Committee to establish Pascagoula as a World War II Heritage City
- Community Engagement:
 - o Conduct Historical Tours on Beach Blvd during 4th of July Fireworks and explore possibility of more extended tours during Cruisin'
 - o Pursue Historical Markers for Cemeteries
 - o Pursue signage for Historical Districts
 - o Seek other community outreach possibilities
 - o Post photographs of Beach Blvd houses destroyed by Katrina on web site and other social media outlets.
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