

MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHT HISTORICAL COMMITTEE HELD OCTOBER 12, 2011, 6:00 P.M.
IN THE CITY COUNCIL BOARDROOM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jerri Harwell, Karen Larrabee, Gayle Conger, Sylvia Orton, Beverly Lund,
John Glauser, Pat Menlove, Tom Shimizu

OTHERS PRESENT: Liane Stillman, Cottonwood Heights City Manager, Dean Smart

Liane Stillman, City Manager, opened the meeting at 6:00 P.M. She expressed the City's desire to strengthen our committee and their willingness to provide the resources and help to accomplish this. She said our committee is at a redefining moment. In line with this she asked each committee member to tell what they accomplished this year and what the priority of the committee should be. She explained that this list of priorities would make it easier to approach someone to chair the committee.

Sylvia Orton thought that fulfilling her responsibilities as secretary along with acting as the committee's representative on the City's Butlerville Days Committee for the fifth year were the top two accomplishments this year. She went on to say the priority of the committee should be to continue with our original goal of researching the history of the area covering the first 100 years. We should complete the gathering of the information on the "root" group of families who were the first settlers of the area and then find someone who could verify the information and pull it all together to compile a City history.

Jerri Harwell described herself as an "Ideas" person. She comes up with new ideas, one of them being the photo opportunity boards used last year and this year at our display for Butlerville Days, the Butlers and the McGhies. She also thought of "The Historical Question and Answer" which appears in the Cottonwood Heights Journal each month. She feels that the taking of the oral histories and their transcribing is important.

Ms. Stillman advised the committee that we are without a chairman because Kevin Cromar had resigned, due to his duties with the Canyons School District. We are also without a representative from the City Council because Tee Tyler could no longer meet with us on the second Wednesday of the month. Ms. Stillman explained that after the coming election and with the appointment of Mike Petersen replacing Councilwoman Omar, the City is changing their committee duties and we would be getting a new representative.

Ms. Stillman also reminded the committee of the dinner honoring the City's volunteers on Friday night, October 21, 2011, at 6:00 P.M. She would like everyone to attend, if possible, and to RSVP if we have not already done so.

Pat Menlove explained that she is new this year and at the request of Mr. Cromar did a history of the Cannon Mortuary. She expressed her desire to know how this history was going to be used. She also said that Mr. Cromar had wanted her, along with Sylvia Orton, to go into homes and scan photos and important historical papers. She likes taking histories and likes writing.

Beverly Lund said she has been working on a pamphlet detailing the formation of Cottonwood Heights City. She will continue with the pamphlet and get it ready for publication. She likes Butlerville Days.

Ms. Stillman advised that the City has a professional P.R. writer on staff, Stephanie Archibald, and the information gathered by Ms. Lund will need to be passed along to her. Ms. Archibald will then rewrite the information. She needs to look at anything that goes out that has the City's name on it.

When Karen Larrabee joined the committee, she was asked to do oral histories and she has enjoyed going into people's homes and hearing their stories. She brought four of the ones she has gathered and transcribed for the City. She brought four transcripts with her tonight to turn into the City, they are Faye Hilton, Harold Blair, Charles Stubbs and Keith Winn. She mentioned that Mr. Winn's transcript is 39 pages. She also brought the original and a copy of the 1884 marriage license signed by Charles Colebrook and Sarah McGhie. She felt oral histories were her priority.

Dean Smart has enjoyed interviewing his friends. He also has enjoyed his work history with Whitmore Oxygen. He explained the original plant was up Little Cottonwood Canyon. He also explained how the original plan to build a hospital on the property in Cottonwood Heights was changed to housing an elementary school and a library. The Whitmore house was where the post office now stands. He feels his priority is to interview just the friends and family that were raised and lived with him.

Gayle Conger explained that the thing she was most proud of was working on the list that the committee was originally given to investigate. Mr. Cromar felt that we needed to start with the core group of families that settled the area. There were several that nothing was known about and he wanted the entire committee to work on gathering information about them. Two of those families were the McGhies and the Coverts. She was able to find information on both of those families and find other contacts to gather additional information. We need to find someone to research and put together the new information we have found. Older histories that have been written have proved to be inaccurate. We need a good solid history written and have it be something that we can be proud of.

John Glauser enjoyed working with the committee on Butlerville Days. Second, he has enjoyed his association with Kevin Cromar and is amazed at Kevin's wealth of knowledge of history. Mr. Cromar and I interviewed Jack Butler and there was another interview with Verl Buxton, both men being my long time friends. A favorite memory is Verl singing one of the songs from an old roadshow. Mr. Glauser agreed with Gayle on the importance of the history of the first hundred years being accurate. He feels this to be very important. It needs to be written up and be accurate and available to the public. If we don't do it who will?

Tom Schimizu thinks the most pressing issue is the written history. He read from the City's Code of Ordinances which indicates two items of importance are the written history and preservation of historic sites.

Ms. Stillman agreed with Mr. Shimizu in that we follow the City's ordinances. She will follow them in choosing a replacement for the chairman of our committee. The City Manager nominates the committee members and they are appointed with the approval of the City Council. Meetings are at least quarterly and the officers of the committee are a chair and a vice chair. The chair appoints a secretary.

Mr. Smart asked if he had been approved as a member of the committee. Ms. Stillman will check on it and if he has not been approved she will take care of it at the next council meeting.

Ms. Stillman will have our terms of office available at our next meeting. She would also like a complete inventory of collected material. She needs to know the status of the interviews, if they are complete, and who has them. She needs to know which interviews have been transcribed and who has them. Once she has the completed interviews they need to be reviewed by the committee and then by professional historians. She will also research some sources for help in transcribing the histories collected so far

.Jerri Harwell suggested using students at the Community College to help with the transcriptions. Ms. Larrabee thought it needed to be done by the person doing the interview, however, Ms. Stillman suggested that once the interview is transcribed we can read along with the recording and proof the transcription.

Ms. Stillman will get a legal agreement to use for the oral histories and have it for the next meeting. She also asked Pat Menlove and Gayle Conger to prepare the "Historial Question and Answer" for next month's Journal. Ms. Stillman will get our committee a list of the questions and answers which have appeared so far in the Journal so we know what has been done in the past.

A discussion was held concerning the paintings loaned to the City by Charles Stubbs. Ms. Stillman will arrange for an art appraiser. Ms. Larrabee advised us that Mr. Stubbs has requested that each picture be labeled before it is put on display. Mr. Glauser volunteered to help us out with the placques.

Ms. Stillman hopes to have a new chair and vice chair in place by the next meeting as well as the council liaison. She will email the committee with the information she needs before the next meeting, Wednesday, November 9, 2011, at 6:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 P.M.