

Cherokee County Historical Society

Board of Directors Meeting

May 20, 2008

Meeting Minutes

On May 20, 2008 the Board of Directors held a scheduled meeting at 6:30pm at the Rock Barn in Canton.

In attendance

Were President Marcia Mosher, Vice President Carla Barnes, Secretary Liza Griffin, Historical Society Executive Director Stefanie Joyner, Directors Wanda Roach, Mary Johnston, Linda Statham, Scott Evans, Eric Ballinger and Karen Smithwick.

The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm by President Marcia Mosher.
(The time is an approximation, Secretary Liza Griffin arrived at 7:05pm, and minutes were taken at that time.)

Minutes from previous meeting were available but could not be approved because a quorum was not present.

Old Business

- Derby results/fundraising
 - Monies earned from Derby Day were noted as follows:
 - Ticket sales: \$3310.00 (2007- \$3000.00)
 - Annual Sponsors: \$15914.25 (2007- \$20,000.00)
 - Silent Auction: \$3590.00 (2007- \$3630.00)
 - Wrap up party for the Derby was scheduled for June 7, 2008 at Tom and Ann Earley's home. This may be rescheduled due to vacation schedules, etc. .

- History Books
 - The contract with the Historical Publishing Network which expired in November 2006 was under discussion upon the arrival of the secretary.
 - Eric Ballinger questioned Stefanie Joyner on specifics of the contract:
 - Essentially the contract was entered into before any of the current staff or board members were in place.
 - HPN has possession of \$19,872 in advertising money which was paid by nine local businesses that were to be given a "sponsor" page in the book published by HPN. This money was paid in 2004.
 - HPN wanted CCHS to raise \$100,000 in advertising fees in order for the book to be published. That was not achieved.
 - The company that we are currently working with to publish our book- Walsworth- suggested that we ask the HPN to release the ads to us and that they, Walsworth would donate the pages to us for free so that those local business would be compensated for their fees. (Walsworth is to publish the book being written by

Rebecca Johnston. This book should be completed within one year.)

- Stefanie Joyner stated that “basically the money given to HPN was gone” From the estimation of the Walsworth representative this was a fly by night organization that preys on organizations and takes off with their money.
 - It was agreed that CCHS should make sure that HPN does release the ads to us and that there is no further reference to our organization by HPN.
 - Eric Ballinger stated that he felt HPN needed to know that they were seriously in the wrong. He further stated that he knew an attorney in Gwinnett who would write a letter of protest to HPN for keeping ~\$20,000 in unearned money. Eric stated he would contact this lawyer.

- Anderson Property
 - A letter written by our attorney, Barry Bishop, has been written to the owners of the property (this letter is attached to these minutes).
 - Marcia Mosher stated that at this point we should just wait and see what transpires.

- Ball Ground Homes Tour
 - Stefanie Joyner reported that
 - Sylvia Bowles and Jeanie, owner of Packrats Daughter approached Stefanie several months ago about having a homes tour in Ball Ground. They have seven homes confirmed for the tour but only want to have the tour open for one day.
 - They have no organization but do have volunteers and would like the expertise and organizational efforts of CCHS including our insurance to help them. .
 - Stefanie made the suggestion that they might want to decrease the number of homes to four, seven homes was a tremendous number to show and that if we were to associate our name with this tour then we should have control over the organization of it.
 - Marcia Mosher stated that before we would put our name to any such tour, Ball Ground should provide a list of volunteers available plus commitment times. She also stated that Woodstock homes tour involved a tremendous amount of work on the part of Stefanie Joyner and Meghan Nepper and that CCHS would have to receive recognition for our efforts. It was suggested that we already have a full schedule this year, so it was not advisable to put this additional burden on the staff until we get caught up with our own work. It also seemed like a tremendous amount of work to earn \$5,000.

- The topic of fundraising came up at this point and it was suggested by several board members that we could have various events in order to raise funds, these suggestions were:
 - a “Summer Supper Series,” this garnered another historical society \$30,000 with very little manpower
 - A “Who’s Who” Cocktail party was also suggested as well as a catered dinner.
 - a movie night at the Rockbarn could be an affordable public awareness fundraiser.

- It was stated that the Society should leave the picnic open to all so that we are not perceived as an elitist organization.
- Update on Westview landscaping plan
 - Marcia Mosher stated that she had planned a Capital Campaign meeting for next Wednesday the 28th at the Rock Barn for all interested persons.
 - Robert and Company has created a landscaping plan for the area to include a retaining wall, hardscaping, plants, fountain seating area etc..
 - A topographical map of the area is needed

New Business

- Grant information gathered at Southern Regional Meeting
 - Stefanie Joyner and Marcia Mosher reported that representatives from the National Trust were impressed with what our organization has accomplished but we were turned down for the grant because we had already accomplished what we would have done with the grant money. That fact essentially took us out of the running for the grant.
 - At this point in the meeting it was noted that the Operating Budget is approximately \$25,000 short.
 - Scott Evans maintained that our fundraising efforts should be tailored to our purpose and that we should seek grants that pay for what we need funded for example: paying for brochures and pamphlets.
 - Carla Barnes and Liza Griffin expressed interest in learning grant writing and pursuing grants of various types to include: arts, community organizations, education and historic.
- Mid year meeting/retreat
 - Perhaps to be held mid-July ½ day commitment, the 27th was suggested as a possible date with a start time of 2:00pm.
- Georgia Trust Endangered List
 - Suggestions were taken for the CCHS place is peril list
 - The “Shingle House” in Ball Ground (Yellow Creek Road)
 - Stefanie Joiner stated that this building was
 - The last remaining building from the Franklin Gold Mine
 - It had once been a Post Office and Commissary
 - The property owner (Gary G Garrett) had been approached previously but was not interested in preserving the property.
 - Sam Rainey has a map of the mining tunnels
 - All members present agreed that this site would make a great park.
 - “This Place Matters”
 - Eric Ballinger stated that the property owner could possibly be given a “Golden Raspberry” award for failure to preserve the site.

- Reception for new head of Georgia Trust
 - Marcia Mosher proposed that the Society host a reception for Mark McDonald, the new Director of the Georgia Trust.
 - A fall date was suggested, possibly the first weekend of October
 - Greater rapport with the new head has many benefits including
 - Program heads up, less exclusion, better funding for CCHS.
- Committee Reports
 - Eric Ballinger reported for the Programs committee
 - A number of programs are in process
 - Antiques Roadshow- June 17th it will be treated as a members meeting.
 - A Google group has been created for anyone wishing more information or to volunteer
 - Appraisal of antiques open first to members
 - Limited to two items
 - Non-members invited to join at the door
 - August- River speaker, possible Eva Gumbert to discuss fish traps
 - Annual picnic to be held at Bernese Cagels
 - Polo event to be held at Jack Cashin's polo field
 - Marcia Mosher suggested that committees present a two year calendar of events so that it would allow the Society to incorporate this into our marketing materials and also place this calendar on the Preservation Nation website.
- Field Trips
 - Suggestions for locations included Plains, Andersonville
 - Workers are needed to organize
 - Support could be sought through local banks to perhaps sponsor a bus; Scott Evans will speak to local banks.
- Halloween cemetery tour
 - Karen Smithwick and Liza Griffin volunteered to work on this project
 - Is permission needed?
 - Bill Teasley
- Meeting was adjourned by Marcia Mosher at 8:45pm