

A regular meeting of the Collierville Heritage Commission was held October 14<sup>h</sup>, 2020 at 3pm at the Morton Museum 196 N. Main Street, Collierville, Tennessee.

All members of the Heritage Commission were present aside from Taylor Stamps, Jennifer Cordell, and Billy Patton. (Pavani Epparla came in 5 minutes late.)

The following staff were present: Museum Director Lydia Warren and Collections Collections and Special Events Coordinator Maureen Smith.

Chairperson Betty Edmunds called the meeting to order at 3pm.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Edmunds asked if there were any corrections of additions to the January 8<sup>th</sup> minutes. Minutes were approved, pending spelling corrections needed for several names.

### **DIRECTORS REPORT**

Ms. Warren reported that attendance is down due to Covid, with 1,142 visitors in 2020. The focus this year has been on research for future exhibits, organizing the archive and processing a backlog of items, and creating virtual content.

Current exhibit is "To Make Our Voices Heard: Tennessee Women's Right To Vote."

Virtual content has included Virtual Dairy Day, Virtual Train Day, Virtual Story Time, a Virtual exhibit called Shine a Light, which is forthcoming, and Virtual Field Trips.

Ms. Warren also reported that a new plaque honoring Morgan Morton was installed. She stated that forms were available for members who were interested in re-applying for the commission when their terms expired, as some members' terms expire in 2020.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **DONATIONS**

Ms. Smith presented items for possible accessioning. Some of the items were part of the large backlog of items already in the Museum which had not been properly accessioned. Some of the items were new offers of donation from local residents.

Bob Grobmeyer:

- Victor-Victrola Model XI phonograph (c. 1920)
- Columbia AZ phonograph (c. 1898)
- Edison Gold Molded Records cylinder in packaging (c. 1902-1912)

Wayne Rodgers:

- Print, "Ornament of Grace" by Randy Thornton (#279 of 1,000)

Mary Alice Brock:

- Textbook, *School History of Tennessee* by James Phelan (1889)

Richard Lee:

- Print, "Collierville Square Pre-Civil War" (#4 of 100)

Tommy Hart:

- Pocket watch piece
- Oil lamp wick knob
- Metal stud
- Spencer rifle cartridge
- Piece, spoon
- .58 3-ring minie bullet (wormed)
- .58 minie bullet (fired)
- Melted minie bullet
- Button backing

Steve Cole

- Book, TIME-LIFE, WWII Series, *The Italian Campaign* by Robert Wallace (1978)

Mr. Moore asked if all the items were pertinent to the Museum collection, and short discussion ensued about collections plans and goals. Ms. Bassett spoke about previous donations. It was agreed that these items were pertinent.

All items were approved for accession into the permanent collection.

**LETTER WRITTEN TO THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMAN RE:  
PRESERVING OUR HISTORY IN COLLIERVILLE**

Ms. Bassett reported that actions were taken between meetings, and these actions followed the rules for non-profit voting. Prompted by an email from Ms. Edmunds on September 4th, the Heritage Commission voted to deliver a letter to Mayor Joyner regarding the monuments and markers in the Town Square. The letter encouraged the Town officials to "protect these markers/monuments that they not be defaced, destroyed, or removed." The action had a majority vote, with one member abstaining. It was delivered September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Bassett read the email and letter aloud and provided a copy of the email and letter for the public record, and these are included in the minutes.

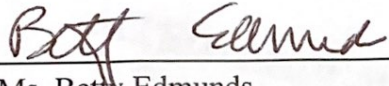
Ms. Warren expressed that, although she is a non-voting member, she dissented with the majority opinion. Ms. Smith expressed that, although she is not a member, she dissented with the majority opinion. Cheri Kilmurray expressed that she did not have enough information on



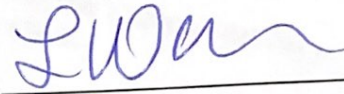
the issue and wanted to hear opposing. Ms. Edmunds expressed that they want to be careful in preserving the history that has been handed down to them.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42pm.



Ms. Betty Edmunds  
Chairperson, Heritage Commission



Lydia Warren  
Museum Director

To: The Mayor and Board of Alderman, Collierville, TN

From: The Heritage Commission, Collierville, TN

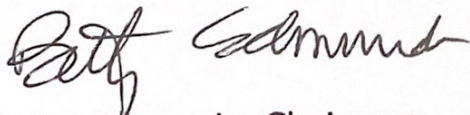
*The Collierville Heritage Commission serves as the Town's authority on matters regarding the Town's history. The Commission conducts research and collects information in the form of stories and documents regarding the history of the Town and its people. The Commission strives to document the history of the Town and promotes the relevance and importance of its history. The mission of the Collierville Heritage Commission is to preserve, interpret and impart knowledge of the history of the Town of Collierville and to foster an appreciation of its historic significance. The Commission also serves as an advisory body for the Morton Museum of Collierville History, conducting fundraising activities and evaluating objects for inclusion into the Museum's collection.*

The Heritage Commission wishes to voice concern regarding monuments and markers that are located in the Collierville Town Square. The markers and monuments were placed in the park with funds raised by private organizations and/or public-private grants. They have been placed in remembrance of soldiers and veterans who died in the War Between the States, World War I and World War II. They speak to Collierville's history and Collierville's soldiers that gave their lives.

*The **Tennessee Heritage Protection Act** was enacted in 2013, and amended in 2016 and 2018. It prohibits the removal, relocation, or renaming of a memorial that is, or is located on, public property without permission (a waiver). Permission requires a two-thirds vote of approval from the Tennessee Historical Commission, 23 of whose members are appointed by the Governor and the remainder ex-officio. The purpose of the Act is to prevent the removal of Confederate memorials from public places in Tennessee.*

The Commission would like to encourage the Town Government to protect these markers/monuments that they not be defaced, destroyed, or removed.

Sincerely,



Betty Edmunds, Chairman  
September 8, 2020