



## Town of Collierville

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A regular meeting of the Collierville Heritage Commission was held March 9, 2022 at 5:00pm at the Morton Museum of Collierville History, located at 196 N. Main Street, Collierville, Tennessee.

The following members of the Heritage Commission were present: Taylor Stamps, John Moore, Michael Davidson, Annette Key, and Ginny Nanney. Absent were Betty Edmunds, Mary Alice Brock, Mayor Stan Joyner, Jennifer Cordell, Skeeter Rutledge and Charles Hall.

Staff member present was Museum Director, Kate Renner.

Kate Renner called the meeting to order.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM January 12, 2022**

Kate Renner asked if there were any corrections or additions to the January 12, 2022 meeting minutes. Only (5) Commission members were present, therefore a quorum was not achieved. Non-binding discussions were held during the remainder of this meeting.

A vote to approve the January 12, 2022 will be delayed until the next Heritage Commission Meeting on May 11, 2022 .

<sup>A</sup>  
minutes

### **MUSEUM REPORT**

Ms. Renner introduced Chandler Tait as the new Collections and Special Projects Coordinator for the Museum. Ms. Tait started in the position on March 1, 2022 and stated that she looks forward to collecting and preserving Collierville history.

Ms. Renner stated that the Museum is now fully staffed and all positions are filled at this time. Ms. Tait departed from the meeting at this time.

Ms. Renner shared updates on Museum programming and events that occurred following the previous Heritage Commission meeting.

Ms. Renner stated Story Time continues to take place at the Museum every Friday, 10:30AM. Attendance has improved and many visitors are returning regularly. Some of the January and February themes included Bold Women in Black History, Valentines Day, Collierville Dragons, and Oak Trees.

Ms. Renner reported that the Museum's Lunch and Learn program has resumed and the February 10, 2022 event featured speakers from the Memphis Railroad and Trolley Museum. 15 people were in attendance.

Ms. Renner invited Heritage Commission members to enjoy the new exhibition, *Beebe and Clegg: Their Enduring Photographic Legacy*, which opened on February 22, 2022. An opening reception for the exhibition was held on February 24, 2022 from 5-7PM. Refreshments were catered by Simply Done Catering. A brief discussion of the exhibition was held at 5:30PM. Several members of the Board of Mayor and Alderman were present. 25 people attended the opening.

Ms. Renner reported the Museum hosted a Spotlight Saturday event on February 26, 2022 from 10AM-2PM which provided a hands-on art making activity, a social studies connection, and a creative play area designed to engage young visitors in learning about the Beebe and Clegg exhibition. A Friends of the Museum table was present where Morton Museum t-shirts and greeting cards were available for purchase.

Ms. Renner stated that a new Community Art Gallery exhibition featuring works by photographer Houston Cofield had recently opened and will be on view until April 30, 2022.

Ms. Renner reported that January and February walk-in visitor attendance has increased significantly from this time last year.

### ***Upcoming Events***

Ms. Renner stated that March 10, 2022 at 12pm the Museum will host its second Lunch and Learn program of the year. The presentation will be given by Mike Ellicott, President of the Friends of the Museum group, and will focus on the personal and professional lives of renowned railroad photographers Lucius Beebe and Charles Clegg.

Ms. Renner reported that the Museum will host a hands-on art activity for walk-in visitors to enjoy during Collierville School's upcoming spring break. Ms. Renner stated that there will also be model train displays on view at the Train Depot during the week of spring break.

Ms. Renner announced that on March 18, 2022 the Museum will host a 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Collierville Fire Department's mascot Sparky. The event will feature Story Time readings, a real fire truck, Sparky in costume, plus art activities and games.

Ms. Renner announced that on March 25, 2022 the Museum will host a special Story Time in partnership with Iris Orchestra featuring a 30 minute string trio performance, followed by an instrument "petting zoo".

Ms. Renner shared that the next Lunch and Learn event will take place on April 10, 2022. Discussion will be focused on the Marriage of the Waters, a significant event that impacted Collierville history. Lecture will be led by Doug Cupples of Christian Brothers University.

Ms. Renner reported that the Museum will provide a paid internship opportunity in Summer 2022 focused on Museum Collections care. Intern will report directly to Chandler Tait, Collections and Special Projects Coordinator. The Friends of the Museum have sponsored a \$1,000 stipend for six weeks of experience, 10 hours per week in June and July. The internship is live on the Museum's website and applications will be accepted until April 18, 2022. Heritage

Commission members are invited to share this opportunity with students or professionals seeking Museum experience.

Ms. Renner announced a new partnership with SRVS Collierville. The Museum will host a monthly Story Time event for their organization geared toward adults with learning and sensory disabilities.

Ms. Renner confirmed the dates for the Museum's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary exhibition. The exhibition will be curated by Museum staff and will be on view August 6 – November 18, 2022.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Ms. Renner referenced the January 12 meeting minutes for unfinished items of business.

Ms. Renner called for a non-binding discussion regarding Town Administrator James Lewellen's request that the Commission identify 2-3 goals that they hope to work towards in 2022.

Mr. Stamps suggested that a goal for the Commission could be helping the Museum increase attendance through free, word-of-mouth marketing opportunities. He also suggested that Museum staff provide Commission members with a list of upcoming events at each Heritage Commission meeting so that they're better able to share these opportunities.

Ms. Nanney agreed and suggested that another way Commission members could assist the Museum in improving attendance would be by sharing the Museum's social media events and posts on their own social media accounts.

Mr. Stamps recommended that Museum staff reach out to Abigail Warren at the Daily Memphian to request that they write some articles about Morton Museum events and activities. He also recommended reaching out to the Fayette Falcon.

Ms. Renner provided information about how activities at the Museum are currently being shared. Social media posts are now scheduled 3-4 times per week, and all events at the Museum can be found on the Morton Museum Facebook page and website. Ms. Renner recently appeared on two local news segments promoting upcoming events. There are plans to increase the Museum's email contact list in order to implement a monthly email directed to community members that reflects upcoming events and exhibitions.

Mr. Moore stated that he had reviewed the Heritage Commission's mission statement in preparation for the meeting - which is to preserve, interpret, and impart knowledge about the history of the Town of Collierville to foster appreciation for its historic significance. He also stated that the Heritage Commission has the ability to fundraise for the Museum when necessary.

Ms. Renner expressed gratitude toward Town of Collierville administration and community members for their generous support of the Museum, resulting in all programs and functions of the Museum being currently well-funded.

Mr. Moore expressed concern that many members of the Collierville community and the greater Mid-South are not aware of the Heritage Commission existence or its function.

Mr. Stamps seconds that concern and expanded it to include a lack of knowledge in the community about all of the efforts made by the Town to preserve Town Square and the Morton Museum itself.

Mr. Moore recommended that the Museum form a partnership with local schools that gives students the opportunity to participate in documenting oral history accounts by long-time residents. Another idea for a school partnership could be a documentary photography project in which students photograph historic buildings and locations in Town that may go unrecorded otherwise.

Mr. Stamps recommended the Museum build a database of historic homes to be documented before they are renovated or demolished in an effort to preserve Collierville history.

Ms. Key suggested a goal for the Heritage Commission could be to educate the community about the historical significance of Collierville's neighborhoods and schools. It is hoped that this would result in preserving and beautifying Collierville for future residents. She also stated this could assist in preserving sites that may otherwise be destroyed.

Ms. Renner agreed that that research could be the foundation for a future exhibition at the Museum.

Ms. Renner summarized the discussion into two suggested goals for the Heritage Commission to accomplish in 2022. The first goal is to advocate for the preservation and documentation of historically significant homes, neighborhoods, and churches in Collierville. The second goal is to promote local attendance at Museum events and exhibitions through word-of-mouth marketing by Heritage Commission members in the community.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Potential Items for Accession**

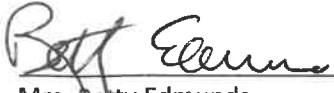
Ms. Renner announced that there is one object to be voted on for acquisition, however since a quorum was not achieved at the March meeting the vote will be delayed until the next meeting on May 11, 2022.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Kate Renner asked if there was any additional business to be discussed. Commission agreed that nothing further needed to be addressed at this time.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business or discussion, at approximately 5:44pm, Kate Renner adjourned the meeting.

  
Mrs. Betty Edmunds  
Chairman, Heritage Commission

  
Kate Renner  
Director, Morton Museum of Collierville History

