



Town of Collierville

A regular meeting of the Collierville Heritage Commission was held on November 9, 2022 at 5:05pm at the Morton Museum of Collierville History, located at 196 N. Main Street, Collierville, Tennessee.

The following members of the Heritage Commission were present: Skeeter Rutledge, John Moore, Annette Key, Ginny Nanney, Mary Alice Brock, and Betty Edmunds.

Staff member present was Museum Director, Kate Renner.

Betty Edmunds called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 13, 2022

Ms. Edmunds asked if there were any corrections or additions to the July 13, 2022 meeting minutes. As there were no further corrections or additions, Ms. Edmunds called for approval of the Heritage Commission meeting minutes. Mr. Rutledge made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Ms. Brock seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed. Motion was approved.

MUSEUM REPORT

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 remains consistent with an average of 15 participants. Some recent themes included Autumn, Apples, Birds, and The Wind. A special Story Time children's concert presented by Iris Collective took place on Friday, October 28. Following the performance, families were provided with an instrument "petting zoo" where they could try their hand at playing a cello, viola, and violin. Registration filled over a month in advance and 70 people attended.

Ms. Renner reported that the Museum continues its partnership with SRVS, providing a monthly Story Time event for adults with physical and learning differences. Their last event was on November 1, 2022 at which participants enjoyed readings and an art activity about giving thanks.

Ms. Renner stated that the Museum offered hands-on activities for families during fall break October 11 – October 15, 2022. Activities were related to the current exhibition in the Community Art Gallery "Heritage Through Art" featuring paintings by Jose Valverde. Educational materials offered information about traditions associated with the Mexican holiday *Día de los Muertos*. Art activities included creating a tissue paper marigold - a symbol of the holiday, and designing a traditional tissue paper banner called *papel picado*. Fall break programming concluded with an artist talk by Jose Valverde at 11:00am on

Saturday, October 15. The talk opened with a ceremonial dance performance by the Atlatchinolli Aztec Dance Group. Turn out for the artist talk was great with 35 people attending.

Ms. Renner reported that the first event in the fall concert series – a performance by Luna Nova Music Ensemble on October 18 – was a great success. The 45minute music program was followed by a reception and a chance to chat with the musicians. Registration reached capacity with 65 people attending.

Ms. Renner stated that the Museum hosted an early celebration of Veterans Day on Saturday, November 5. In the morning from 10am-1pm hands-on activities were offered. Visitors were invited to paint an American flag magnet, write a letter of encouragement to a veteran or active duty servicemember, and enjoy a display of military uniforms and badges from the past. At 1:30pm there was a “Celebration of Veterans” program at which time veterans representing each branch of the military shared stories from their time in the service. Turnout was wonderful with 65 people in attendance.

Ms. Renner shared that the fall Lunch & Learn series has had a consistent attendance of 20-30 people per event. In August, Suzy Hendrix came to speak about techniques for preserving historic stained glass. In September Judy Card, cofounder of the Women of Achievement organization, gave a talk about prominent figures on the Memphis Womens Legacy Trail – highlighting Collierville resident Corinne Derenburger. And in October Todd Fox, who is the groundskeeper at Magnolia Cemetery, came to speak about his role in the care and keeping of the historic site.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ms. Renner provided members of the Heritage Commission with a packet of flyers for upcoming events and programs taking place at the Museum.

Ms. Renner announced that upcoming preschool Story Time themes include pumpkins, baking, and winter.

Ms. Renner announced that the next SRVS Story Time for adults with special needs will be on December 6, 2022. The theme will be moon and stars.

Ms. Renner invited all Heritage Commission members to the final Lunch & Learn in this fall’s series on Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 12:00pm. Collierville resident and retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Stacey Bonasso, who was one of the first female fighter pilots to fly an F16, will speak about her time in the service and her current role as a science educator at Briarcrest School. Participants are invited to bring a sack lunch, beverages and desserts are provided by the museum. Lunch & Learn will resume February – May 2023. The speakers and themes have already been confirmed and will be published soon.

Ms. Renner announced that the Museum has some fun programs coming soon for the holidays. On Friday, December 9, 2022 there will be a special Story Time with Santa Claus. Santa will read some of his favorite stories followed by pictures and a meet-and-greet. The event has become so popular there will be a morning session at 10:30AM and an afternoon session at 1:30PM. The following day on Saturday, December 10, there will be a “Cocoa & Cookies in Collierville” event at the Museum from 10am-4pm. The program is free and open to the public. There will be a hot

cocoa bar, holiday cookies, and the hands-on activities will be a sock snowman and a traditional punched tin ornament.

Ms. Renner reported that both special exhibitions currently on view will be closing November 19 – *On A Mission: 10 Years of Preserving Collierville History* and *Community Art Gallery: Heritage Through Art*. Upcoming exhibitions taking their place include *Community Art Gallery: Letters to Santa (2021)* and *Toys, Trains, and Traditions*. This holiday display highlights the story of Wonder Products toys, once manufactured in Collierville, and a snowy, small-scale model of Town Square featuring historic landmarks and artifacts from the Museum’s collection. Both will be on view November 29 – December 30, 2022.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Renner noted that the only item of unfinished business was an inquiry from the March Heritage Commission Meeting regarding the documentation of historic district homes slated for demolition. Mr. Stamps and several other commission members expressed that it might be worthwhile for the Museum to photograph and document historic district homes slated for demolition so that that information isn’t being lost. After some research, it was discovered that the Town of Collierville’s Planning department and their Heritage District Commission have been actively doing this work. Ms. Renner met with Jamie Groce, Town Planner, who shared that Planning has already digitized this information and made it available online on the Town Planning webpage. Information available includes their preservation efforts and an interactive map where you can see images/information about any homes that have previously been demolished or are slated to be. The Museum offered to assist Mr. Groce with the documentation if there’s ever a need.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Brock inquired about what resources are used to fund catering for Museum events. Ms. Renner reported that the Town of Collierville provides a budget line for food and beverage, which is sometime supplemented by the Friends of the Museum as needed.

Mr. Rutledge inquired if it was possible for 2023 Heritage Commission meetings to take place earlier in the day. The group determined that 4:00pm would be convenient for all. Ms. Renner stated that she will get the change confirmed by Town administration and will update the group if the meeting time is approved.

Mr. Moore inquired if the new Town Administrator would request that the group set annual goals again. Ms. Renner shared that she is unsure, but will keep the group updated on any upcoming changes related to the staff transition. The group agreed that it would be great to invite the new administrator to a spring Heritage Commission meeting so that they can introduce themselves and the role of the commission.

POTENTIAL ITEMS FOR ACCESSION

Ms. Renner shared that the Museum had received a large donation of artifacts and research files from Clarene Russell when she passed this summer. Documenting and accessioning the items will be a massive undertaking and Museum staff are seeking a spring intern to assist. In the meantime, items from the Russell donation are being safely stored at the Museum and will be presented to the Heritage Commission for a vote sometime next year.

Ms. Renner presented a group of fourteen items offered by Betty Edmunds. The Museum returned four items – postcards that depicted Memphis, rather than Collierville. The Museum suggested acquiring ten objects, which included several items of memorabilia from resident Mary Louise Cox, laminated Collierville Herald newspaper clippings, and photos/postcards depicting locations in Collierville. Ms. Edmunds asked if there was a motion to accept the ten items into the Collection. Mr. Rutledge made a motion to approve. Ms. Nanney seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed. Motion was approved.

Ms. Renner presented a large group of items offered by the Hall family – a box of items from the Mary Louise Cox estate including 200 photographs of Collierville High School students and programs ca. 1950-1960, Collierville Herald clippings, VFW Post 5066 memorabilia, and awards received by Ms. Cox. Ms. Edmunds asked if there was a motion to accept the ten items into the Collection. Ms. Brock made a motion to approve. Mr. Moore seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed. Motion was approved.

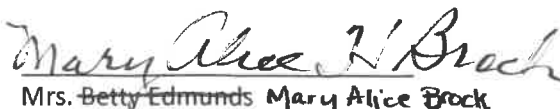
Ms. Renner presented another large group of items offered by Veterans of Foreign Wars post 5066 – including memorabilia from the VFW Ladies Auxiliary ca. 1980-1990, headshots of VFW members ca. 1970-1980, a VFW Membership Book ca. 1956, scrapbooks, flags, and resident Richard Kelsey's WWII uniform. Ms. Edmunds asked if there was a motion to accept the ten items into the Collection. Mr. Rutledge made a motion to approve. Mr. Moore seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed. Motion was approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Edmunds asked if there were any additional items of 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 5:40 pm, Ms. Edmunds adjourned the meeting.



Mrs. Betty Edmunds
Vice Chairman, Heritage Commission



Kate Renner
Director, Morton Museum of Collierville History