



Town of Collierville

A regular meeting of the Collierville Heritage Commission was held on March 8, 2023 at 4:00pm at the Morton Museum of Collierville History, located at 196 N. Main Street, Collierville, Tennessee.

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

Staff members present were Museum Director, Kate Renner, and Collections Coordinator, Chandler Tait.

Betty Edmunds called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 11, 2023

Ms. Edmunds asked if there were any corrections or additions to the January 11, 2023 meeting minutes. As there were no further corrections or additions, Ms. Edmunds called for approval of the Heritage Commission meeting minutes. Mr. Moore made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Ms. Nanney seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed. Motion was approved.

JIMMY ROUT, SHELBY COUNTY HISTORY DAY

Ms. Edmunds introduced Shelby County Historian, Jimmy Rout, who shared upcoming events related to Shelby County History Day (SCHD) on April 29, 2023. Mr. Rout reported that 2023 SCHD will be at First Baptist Church located at Poplar Ave and Parkway in Memphis. This year's topic honors the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Memphis and will discuss the strategic role water and railways played across the MidSouth.

MUSEUM REPORT

Ms. Renner introduced the 2023 Heritage Commission student liaison, Emily Zhao. Ms. Zhao is a junior at St. George's. Her extracurricular activities include Honors Council, elementary tutoring, Varsity swim team, and participation in the Greater Memphis AAPI Alliance. She also received a full-ride scholarship to the 2022 Tennessee Governor's School of Emerging Technologies Seminar.

Ms. Renner shared that the Museum's Visitor Services Coordinator, Jamie Boelter, will have her last day at the Museum on Friday, March 10, 2023. The Town is now accepting applications for that part-time position.

Ms. Renner stated that the Museum hosted opening receptions for the "Gentle Awakenings" exhibition on Tuesday, January 17 and Thursday, January 19, 2023. 36 Friends of the Museum members and 85 community members attended.

Ms. Renner shared that the Saturday, February 10 adult workshop about the history of Valentine's Day was well attended with full capacity of 20 registrants.

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 shared exhibition updates. This week "The Things Women Dust" by Sharan M. Nelson opened in the Community Art Gallery. The exhibition will be on view until May 6 and the artist has generously opted to donate all proceeds from sales to St. Jude. "Gentle Awakenings: The Art of Keith Burns" remains on view through May 6, 2023.

Ms. Renner shared that the Friends of the Museum book club continues to meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 2:00pm. Their upcoming meeting dates are March 28 and April 25, 2023.

Ms. Renner announced that the February 9 Lunch & Learn provided an introduction to woodturning, relating to the "Gentle Awakenings" exhibition. The spring series continues March 9 at noon with a presentation about women's suffrage and TN's role in achieving women's right to vote. April 13 will be "Captivating Curb Appeal" with Kim Halyak. May 4 will be a Mother's Day floral arranging demonstration with John Mark Sharpe.

Ms. Renner shared that registration for the March 21 Evening Concert with Iris Collective has reached full capacity of 70. A waitlist has been started and people will be contacted if space becomes available.

Ms. Renner confirmed that weekly preschool Story Time and monthly SRVS Story Time are still receiving steady attendance and continue to be a great success.

Ms. Renner stated that the Museum will host three events related to Shelby County History Day – an evening lecture on April 25 and two Battle of Collierville Walking Tours led by Steve Cole on April 15 and April 30, 2023.

Ms. Renner announced that Tuesday – Friday during Spring Break the Museum will offer activities for all ages. The theme is Collierville's parks and playgrounds and includes a table display about the historic figures for whom Collierville's parks are named, two art activities – a paper plate kite and a nature journal, a parks scavenger hunts with a list of all the parks and their amenities.

Lastly, Ms. Renner shared that the Friends of the Museum will have their annual meeting on Tuesday, April 18 at 6:00pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Renner noted that there were no items of unfinished business following the January 11, 2023 Heritage Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Renner petitioned for a vote granting permission to rehome the piano currently located in the Museum's choir loft to another Town facility or community service organization. The piano is not original to the Christian Church, it was offered to past Town Administrator Josh Suddath in 2014 by Ms. Janette Vaughn. Since arriving eight years ago, the piano has not been used during programs or private event rentals and is taking up valuable space that could be used for exhibitions about Collierville history – better fulfilling the Museum's mission. Ms. Edmunds called for approval to rehome the piano to another Town facility or community service organization. Ms. Brock made a motion to approve. Ms. Nanney seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed. Motion was approved.

POTENTIAL ITEMS FOR ACCESSION

Ms. Tait presented floor plans for the original Collierville Christian Church (post 1952 renovation); includes lower and upper floors (2 copies of first floor; 3 copies of second floor) Items were offered for acquisition by Linda Strong on behalf of the Collierville Christian Church after being discovered in a store room she was cleaning out on February 17, 2023. Ms. Edmunds moved that the floor plans be accepted. Ms. Brock seconded. All were in favor, none opposed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Renner 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 4:47pm, Ms. Edmunds adjourned the meeting.


Betty Edmunds *Mary Alice Brock*

Vice Chairperson, Heritage Commission


Kate Renner

Director, Morton Museum of Collierville History

