



Town of Collierville

A regular meeting of the Collierville Heritage Commission was held on May 10, 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, Mary Alice Brock, Skeeter Rutledge, Taylor Stamps, Mayor Stan Joyner, and Emily Zhao.

Staff members present were Museum Director, Kate Renner, and Collections Coordinator, Chandler Tait. Mary Alice Brock called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 8, 2023

Ms. Brock asked if there were any corrections or additions to the March 8, 2023 meeting minutes. As there were no further corrections or additions, Ms. Brock called for approval of the Heritage Commission meeting minutes. Mr. Rutledge made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Ms. Key seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed. Motion was approved.

MUSEUM REPORT

Ms. Renner introduced the Museum's new Visitor Services Coordinator, Neecole Gregory. Ms. Gregory received an M.A. in Museum Studies from the University of Memphis in 2021 and has been adjunct teaching there since.

Ms. Renner gave a report on the following programs hosted by the Museum since the last meeting of the Heritage Commission on March 8, 2023:

- Spring Break Hands-On activities for families March 14-17, 2023 (attendance 200)
- Weekly preschool Story Time met every Friday at 10:30am. (Average attendance 20-25)
- Evening Concert Series performances by Iris Collective on March 21 (attendance 40) and Collierville High School student ensembles on May 2, 2023 (attendance 40).
- Battle of Collierville Walking Tours with Steve Cole on April 15 (attendance 13) and April 30, 2023 (attendance 17).
- 'Friends of the Museum' Book Club met on March 28 and April 25. (Average attendance 5)
- Spring Lunch & Learn series concluded with a Mother's Day floral arranging demonstration by Germantown florist John Mark Sharpe on May 4, 2023. (Attendance 70)
- New exhibitions. Community Art Gallery: Passenger Pigeons & Ecological Tipping Points by artist Jennalyn Speer (on view May 9 – July 8, 2023) and The Clarene Russell Collection curated by staff member Chandler Tait (on view May 2 – August 12, 2023).
- Opening reception for "The Clarene Russell Collection" on May 9, 2023. (Attendance 70)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ms. Renner provided the Commission with packets of flyers for upcoming events and programs at the Museum and stated all of the following programs are offered free of charge:

- ‘Collierville Blooms & Blossoms’ Flower Show by Shelby East Garden Club – May 26 and 27, 2023
- Weekly preschool Story Time – May 12 Counting, May 19 Bicycles, May 26 Butterflies
- ‘Friends of the Museum’ Book Club - May 30 and June 27, 2023
- Tennessee Historical Commission Public Meeting – June 16, 2023
- Educator Workshop ‘The Indian Removal Act & Treaty of New Echota’ – June 21, 2023
- Youth Summer Workshops for ages 7-10 – every Thursday in June
- Adult Summer Workshops for ages 16+ - every Thursday in July
- Monthly Lunch & Learn series breaks for the summer and resumes August – November 2023.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Renner noted that there were no items of unfinished business following the March 8, 2023 Heritage Commission meeting.

POTENTIAL ITEMS FOR ACQUISITION

Ms. Tait presented the following items offered to the Museum for acquisition:

- **Original Wonder Horse (ca. 1942-1950)**
Red, wooden Wonder Horse with original production sticker; good condition; found in antique store by Jan Sherva of Michigan.
Mr. Stamps moved that the item be accepted. Mr. Moore seconded. All were in favor, none opposed.
- **Clip Clop Wonder Horse (ca. 1960-1970)**
Plastic with electronic sound box. Sound does not function, but the horse itself is in excellent condition; found by Collierville resident Lisa Little on a street curb.
Mr. Rutledge moved that the item be accepted. Mr. Moore seconded. All were in favor, none opposed.
- The following items were abandoned at the Linda Kerley Center and delivered to the Museum by LKC staff:
 - **Collierville High School Yearbooks (1958-1994)**
 - **“Re-elect Mayor Linda Kerley” Campaign T-Shirt (ca. 2003)**
 - **Handwritten letter by Mayor Linda Kerley**
 - **(3) funeral programs for Mayor Linda Kerley (November 2013)**
 - **Collierville Life Magazine w/ cover image of Mayor Linda Kerley (April 2013)**
 - **“Linda Kerley Center Opening” newspaper clipping (ca. 2016)**

Ms. Renner moved that the items be accepted. Motion failed due to lack of second. Ms. Renner and Ms. Tait expressed the value in preserving these items for future generations, particularly the CHS yearbooks,

urged commission members to reconsider. Ms. Renner called for a discussion. Mr. Stamps shared an opinion that the Morton Museum is not an appropriate place to preserve political materials and recommended that the items related to Linda Kerley be cared for by Town Hall. Mr. Moore made a motion to accept only the Collierville High School yearbooks (1958-1994). Ms. Key seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Renner called for further discussion at the next meeting of the Heritage Commission regarding 1) the acquisition of the Linda Kerley items and 2) the Morton Museum's role in preserving artifacts connected to Collierville's civic figures. Ms. Renner shared that the Commission has set a precedent in the past for approving campaign items related to other Collierville politicians and advocates that Mayor Linda Kerley should be no exception.

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 4:30pm, Ms. Brock adjourned the meeting.


Betty Edmunds
Chairperson, Heritage Commission


Kate Renner
Director, Morton Museum of Collierville History

