

**Houston Historical Society
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2007**

Present: Jeff Gunnin, Carl and Owene Godsey, Rick Harris, Tom and Betty Denton, Celia Sampley, John Hunter, Nora Lane, Bobbie Garrett, Tommy Estes, Larry and Mimi Barkey, Ann Richardson, Jean Allan, Dale Haley./Guests: Vic Hood, Leatherwood, Inc., Elizabeth Brown, Alabama Historical Commission.

Jeff called meeting to order at 7:00pm.

- Betty explained the proposed amendment to Article IX of the Bylaws as necessary for the application for tax-exempt status. Copies of the proposed amendment were available for review.

Proposed amendment: Upon dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Should the organization cease to maintain the old jail building and site as a historical monument, the premises shall revert to the I.M. Alford heirs.

No further discussion, Jeff called for vote. Amendment approved unanimously.

- Jeff introduced Vic Hood and Elizabeth Brown. Mr. Hood addressed the group regarding his report/review of the building. He indicated that the Old Houston Jail is one of the most unique log buildings in the country based upon his work on historic buildings throughout the United States over more than twenty years experience. He warehouses period materials (logs, etc.) for use in restoration of log buildings. Mr. Hood indicated that he would estimate the restoration of the building including foundation work would take between 2 and 3 months to complete.
- Ms. Brown commended the group on the work done thus far. The building is on the National Register and proceeding with the restoration will insure that it remains in that designation. She also addressed the issue of funding for the project indicating that both local/group fund raising, state and federal grants, and grants from foundations within Alabama were all sources which would be available to the group. She indicated her office would be able to assist the group in locating funding sources. Congressman Aderholt's office has indicated support for the project and assisting the group in locating funding.
- The floor was opened for questions. Mr. Hood and Ms. Brown both indicated that with proper restoration of the building and ongoing nominal maintenance, no protective shelter over the building would be needed. The general consensus of the group was to move forward with the proposed restoration of the jail.
- Jeff and Rick presented a landscape drawing of the jail and immediate area for the group to review and make comment.
- Both Winston County Schools and Haleyville City Schools have been approached regarding the project and both have indicated their support. The Bankhead National Forest has also indicated their support of the project and willingness to be involved.
- Rick announced that Darryal Jackson is requesting help from this area of the county in submission of stories and photos to be used in the publication of a book focused on Winston County history.
- Rick proposed that at the next meeting we set a date for starting work on the actual building restoration and in the

meantime focus on fundraising via donors and grants.

- Betty proposed that the next meeting be delayed until March to allow for time to focus on fundraising. The next meeting will be March 6, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall of Houston Memorial United Methodist Church.
- No further business, meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Betty G. Denton,
Secretary/Treasurer