

Houston Historical Society

Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2007

Present: Jeff Gunnin, John Hunter, Nora Lane, Dorothy L. Everett, Lucille White, Carl Godsey, Tom and Betty Denton, Howard Estill, Rick Harris, Linda Moody, Tommy Estes, and Mavis Nelson.

Jeff called the meeting to order. Jeff and Rick provided an update on the building restoration. Some interior work remains to be completed. Leatherwood is currently acquiring the period nails to finish the interior work and it is expected that the work will be completed by end of the month. The dumpster has been removed from on site. Jeff is working with individuals who will be providing the equipment and services to do grading and proper drainage for the area around the building. Discussion was held regarding the decision to not put a door on the building at this time. In general without a system available for locking/unlocking the building, it was felt that a door could invite vandalism. In the future a door and security lights can be added.

Betty provided a financial report to those present. (Copy available on file.) The Society has received a \$5000.00 grant from the Daniel Foundation of Alabama. Senator Bedford has pledged a \$500 community grant to the group. The HUD grant funds (\$19,800.00) earmarked for the Houston Jail Restoration Project has been released to the Winston County Commission. All of these most recent funds along with the continued contributions from individuals and businesses will allow the final payment to be made for the restoration work.

Information regarding the Alabama Mountain Lakes Association (AMLA) which promotes tourism for the North Alabama area was shared. A motion to join the AMLA was made by Tom Denton, seconded by Nora Lane. Motion carried. Carl reported that he has made contact with the ALFA magazine for a future feature article on the jail.

Discussion regarding Phase II of the project was held. Multiple individuals and entities have offered services. Linda Moody and John Hunter agreed to co-chair Phase II.

Rick presented examples of historic markers, pricing, and potential text for a marker to be placed in front of the jail. Robin Sterling drafted the text for the marker. Rick reported that the Alabama Historical Commission has reviewed the text and will make final approval of the text. The company which makes the marker has indicated that the marker could be completed and shipped for installation by mid January if the order is placed by this week. The cost of the marker will be in the range of \$2000.00 - \$2500.00. The Alabama Historical Commission will provide the plaque indicating that the building is on the National Register of Historic Places, but does not provide the marker. A motion to select the "South Dakota" sign pattern with different text on each side of the marker was made by Linda Moody, seconded by Tom Denton. Motion carried.

Tom announced that he had been contacted by PALS to help with litter clean up along CoRd 63 between Houston and the Brushy Bridge. He asked the Society to adopt a mile for the clean-up and there was agreement from the group to support the project. After the first of the year signs will be erected and clean up will begin.

Rick announced the date of the official dedication of the Old Houston Jail Restoration as January 22, 2008 at 11am. This will be the first official event of the Winston County Sesquicentennial. All members of the Society will be needed to work with arrangements for the day.

Lucille White was recognized as newest Life Member. Next meeting will be January 8, 2008. Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Betty G. Denton, Secretary/Treasurer