

Lawton Heritage Association
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 10, 2025 - 5:15 P.M.
Historic Mattie Beal Home, 1008 SW 5th St., Lawton, OK

1. Call to order and Roll Call. Time: 5:22 p.m.
Present: Abby DeBaca, Sylvia Moore, Jim Whiteley, Janie Brown, Sheila Fountain, John Kennedy, Carol Zabielski
Not present: JoAnne Gaasbeck, Elizabeth James (excused), Mary Jane Jones (excused), Mary Owensby (excused), Sharon Stephen (excused)
Also present: Yuri Schendel
2. Minutes. Discuss and take appropriate action.
 - a. March 2025
Motion to approve: Kennedy. Second: Moore. Carried: 7-0
3. President's Report – DeBaca
DeBaca reported that 44 5th and 6th graders from Cache visited the home. Jones had taken our video tour for them to watch prior to their visit. Brown arranged and conducted a tour for 15 4th graders from Trinity Christian Academy.
4. Treasurers Report. Discuss and take appropriate action for approval and submitting for audit.
 - a. March 2025
Motion to approve: Brown. Second: Zabielski. Carried: 7-0
5. Business
 - a. LHA cell phone. Discuss and take appropriate action.
There was a discussion about taking over paying for the cell phone. Mike Cornish is currently paying for it. Moore will talk to Cornish.
No action taken.
 - b. Lawn sprinkler repair. Discuss and take appropriate action.
There was a leak in the northwest corner of the property. The problem was caused by a redbud tree damaging a valve. The tree was removed and the valve replaced. The cost was \$200.00.
No action taken.
 - c. Bathroom sink repair. Discuss and take appropriate action.
Frank DeBaca will look at it to see if he can fix the leak. If not, he knows someone who can look at it.
No action taken.
 - d. Proposal for trees for the yard. Discuss and take appropriate action.
DeBaca and Brown received quotes to purchase two trees, a lacebark elm and a redbud. Naturescape quoted \$945 for both trees including planting. Treehouse Garden Center quoted \$900.
Motion to approve purchasing one tree from Naturescape and one from Treehouse Nursery, depending on availability: Moore. Second: Brown.
Carried 7-0

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6. Old Business

- a. Roof repair update. Discuss and take appropriate action.
DeBaca reported that the roof repair is complete. The tiles on the south side of the house are the original tiles. Ford roofing is storing the extra tiles for LHA.

7. New Business

No new business.

8. Committee/Coordinator Reports. Discuss and take appropriate action.

- a. Docent Program – Brown/Moore
We may have a new docent, possibly in late May.
- b. Acquisitions – Stephen
The yard sale will be from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 14. Volunteers will be needed for pricing the week before. There is room in the basement to store items prior to the sale. The house will be closed for tours on the 14th and possibly the 13th.
- c. Board Development – Moore
Yuri Schendel appointment to the board will be presented at the May meeting along with a slate of officers for fiscal year 2026 to be voted on at the member's meeting in June.
- d. Finance – Jones
Jones has closed the rent house account and transferred the money to our regular account. \$140,000 from the grant account and \$25,000 from the general fund was used to pay for the roof. The remaining \$70.00 dollars in the grant account was transferred to donations and the grant account closed.
- e. Events – Jones
The Frank Rush III book signing will be on May 17th. Board members will give a presentation, featuring Mattie Beal and our tour video, at the Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus at 7:00 p.m. on May 22nd. On May 29th the Junior Service League will hold a meeting at the house. At the meeting they will be given a tour of the house.
- f. House Maintenance – DeBaca
Moore met with Mike Cornish to discuss the painting and repairs from leaks inside the house. We do not yet have an estimate for the repairs. During the windstorm earlier in the month the balcony doors in the ballroom blew open. This resulted in a large amount of dust throughout the house. LaNette Nichols was paid \$600 to clean the house. She spent 26 and a half hours cleaning. She did not have keys to locked cabinets that may still need to be cleaned. She will be contacted to discuss cleaning sheer curtains in one of the rooms. If this is successful, other sheers in the house will be cleaned.

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- g. Grounds Maintenance – DeBaca
The yard has been sprayed for weeds. The cost was \$275.00. Pre-emergent will be applied in the fall.
 - h. IT Committee – Moore
No report.
 - i. Marketing – Jones
No report.
 - j. Membership – Whiteley
No report.
 - k. Preservation – Whiteley
There was a good turnout for the New Deal symposium in March. There were around 30 people. There will be another symposium later this year or early next year at another location in the state. Albert Johnson's family home has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
 - l. Gift Shop – Brown/Schendel
DeBaca mentioned the gift shop cabinet may need to be cleaned after the dust storm
9. Comments/Audience Participation
No comments.
10. Adjournment. Time: 6:30 p.m.