

Lawton Heritage Association
Regular Meeting Agenda
Thursday, February 10, 2022 – 5:15 P.M.
Historic Mattie Beal Home, 1008 SE 5th St., Lawton, OK

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. Time: 5:15 pm
Present: Sharon Stephen, Janie Brown, Mary Jane Jones, Jim Whiteley, Michael Cornish, Abby DeBaca, Jennifer Dunham, Elizabeth James, John Kennedy, Yuri Schendel, Craig Williams
Not Present: Dee McAllister (excused), Sylvia Moore (excused), Mary Owensby (excused)
2. President's Report – Stephen
In January Wendy Tatroult contacted Stephen about Helen Hoefert who was seriously ill at the time. Stephen asked board members to send cards if they could. Hoefert did not want to stay in the hospital and went to stay with her daughter where she passed away at the age of 91. Stephen thanked Jones for transferring 25% of our rental house money to the general fund and James for pointing out the oversight. We currently have 6 RSVPs for the Heart Healthy luncheon. Stephen thanked Moore for taking care of the new house signs. She has seen photos of them, and they look very nice. On January 22nd Schendel, DeBaca, Brown, Moore, Whiteley, Jones, and Stephen cleaned the house. Stephen thanked everyone who helped. She was surprised at how full her vacuum was just from cleaning the downstairs. Moore had previously cleaned the upstairs. Stephen commented on how pretty the house was after been cleaned. The house was closed during the snow and ice storm. If we had opened, we would have needed to have the parking areas and sidewalks shoveled and the docents would have had a difficult drive to and from the house. Stephen thanked Jones for getting the Heart Healthy invitations printed and mailed and for keeping track of the RSVPs. Minnette Page contacted Stephen out of concern for the damaged arch at Highland Cemetery. She suggested LHA contact Mayor Booker to express our thoughts that repairs to the arch should be done correctly by a company with experience with historic preservation and working with similar historic properties. Page suggested we talk with Councilman Allan Hampton.
3. Treasurer's Reports – Discuss and take appropriate action for approval /submitting for audit.
Motion to accept: Cornish. Second: Brown. Carried.
4. Minutes – Discuss and take appropriate action on January meeting.
Correction: House maintenance. Moore found the water leak and contacted Cornish.
Motion to accept with correction: Schendel. Second: Kennedy. Carried.
5. Old Business-Discuss and take appropriate action.

1. Mattie Beal open days-Vote to go 3 days per week all year due to lack of docents.

Schendel reported that we need between 24-30 docents to comfortably be open 4 days a week. We currently have 13. Rather than the once-a-month service we ask, some docents are working 3, sometimes 4, times a month. We can put a call for docents on Facebook. Motion to approve: Kennedy. Second: DeBaca. Carried.

2. Fire Marshall related expenses – OK expenditures and repay Abby for items she paid for.

DeBaca reported she purchased 4 exit signs. The drip on the air conditioner was fixed for \$90.00. Everything on the Fire Marshall's list has been corrected except electrical and an inspection of the air conditioner in the attic. The inspection will be done by the City and should not cost us anything. The old heater upstairs has been removed and capped off. Our due date is now the 28th of February, we will apply for another extension. Schendel reported a number of anonymous volunteers have taken care of items on the list that could be done without hiring someone. Cornish mentioned he had brought in the Knox box. We will consult with the Fire Marshall to see where it should be located. The Knox box will contain codes to the gates and house so the Fire Department can easily access the property in an emergency. Motion to approve: Williams. Second: James. Carried.

New Business:

1. Electronic Deadbolt purchase and related expenses – OK Expenditures & repay Abby.

Abby paid \$98.99, with a discount, to replace the deadbolt on the back door. Abby's husband saved us \$50.00 by installing the lock for us. Motion to approve: Cornish. Second: Williams. Carried.

2. Google Map-whether to allow them to take virtual video of inside of the home-discuss and vote.

Whiteley reported we had been contacted by Jared Irwin about creating a 360 virtual tour of the house for integration into Google Street View. There are other companies that also offer this service. There would be a one-time cost to have it done. There was concern that having this online would reduce visitation to the house. It was decided not to take action now but do more research and consider our options in the future. Motion to table: James. Second: Kennedy. Carried.

3. 2022 Lawn Maintenance Contract-discuss and vote.

Schendel reported for Moore. Moore contacted four lawn care services. U.S. Lawns will charge \$175.00 every other week. Their service is all-inclusive. Garcia's Lawn Service, Bedrock, and Moonie's were also contacted. Moonie's was not interested. Garcia's and Bedrock were 12-month contracts. U.S. Lawns is seasonal, March through November. Motion to contract with U.S. Lawns: Brown. Second: Jones. Carried.

4. Needed Repairs to home- discuss needs and OK expenditures for repairs.

Schendel reported the doors to the kitchen have deteriorated. The south door has a crack near the hinge and panel, it drags when humid. The north door is starting to sag and can be difficult to open. There is also a lack of weatherstripping. Lemuel Johnson (Lemco Builders, LLC), who has consulted with Wendy Tatroult about the doors in the house in the past, is available, for a short time, to do the work now. On the south kitchen door, he will fix the split in the frame, shave the bottom of the door, fix the split in the panel, caulk, and install an oak threshold inside for \$150.00. For the north kitchen and storm doors he will fix the frame so the door closes and latches, weather strip and fix the door jam for \$250.00. On the front porch, the overhang on the north side has wood rot, repairs to the chain and canopy for \$250.00. He gave an estimate to repaint the handicap railing for \$450.00. The total for the repairs was \$1,100.00.

Motion to approve: DeBaca. Second: Schendel. Carried.

6. Committee/Coordinator Reports – Discuss and take appropriate action

a. Docent Program/Docent Coordinator – Dunham

Margarita Tatum is a new docent who will start training with Brown. Dunham asked to be notified when the house will be closed so she can let the docents know. Dunham will let the docents know about the aprons that are available for them to use.

b. Acquisitions – DeBaca

We will have another garage sale, probably in May. A date has not been selected. It will be a one-day sale, on a Saturday. DeBaca asked board members to bring in items they would like to donate to the sale. Donated items will be stored in the basement. Proceeds from the sale are usually designated for a specific purpose. That will be presented to the Board when the date is confirmed.

c. Board Development – Brown

No report.

d. Finance – Jones

If we want Rid-A-Weed to come back, it will cost \$312.00. They would apply a combo treatment, weed killer and pre-emergent. The treatment usually lasts for 6 months. If there are problems after that time, we can contact them for further treatment.

Motion to approve Rid-A-Weed treatment: James. Second: Stephen. Carried

e. Events – Jones

We have 6 RSVPs for the lunch event, plus volunteers. We may have an Easter event the Saturday before Easter. Among the possible activities there will be plastic eggs with candy, the balloon man, scavenger hunt, face painting, and pictures with the Easter bunny. DeBaca will dress up as the Easter bunny. The cost would be \$5.00 per person.

f. House Maintenance – Schendel

We lost a few roof ridge tiles during a wind storm. There was a discussion to get an estimate to replace the roof so that a grant request could be submitted to the McMahon Foundation.

g. Grounds Maintenance – Schendel

Dog droppings are still a problem. Schendel saw a fourth dog in the yard.

h. IT Committee – Sylvia

Whiteley reported Jonathan Bennet has started to clean up the website. He has given a link to a preview site for us to look at. He has consolidated some pages and cleaned some things up. He has integrated Google maps to the site. The site is not yet optimized for mobile.

i. Marketing – Jones

Senator Langford held an event at the house. There were about 50 people at the event. Senator Langford was very impressed with the house. DeBaca suggested we contact the newspaper to put out a call for docents. Schendel reported that a writer for Lawton Living Magazine will be doing a story on the Mattie Beal Home.

j. Membership – Whiteley

No report.

k. Preservation – Whiteley

The City has contracted with a company in Oklahoma City, Preservation and Design Studio, to examine the Highland Cemetery arch and prepare a proposal about how the arch should be repaired. The company has experience with historic preservation projects. The woman who owns the company previously worked for the State Historic Preservation Office.

l. Gift Shop – McCallister

Schendel completed an inventory of the Gift Shop. The inventory was sent to the board. Eight of the Griffith Gates prints of the house are not signed or numbered. Schendel lowered the price for those prints by \$2.00. We sold about half of our Christmas cards. Three items on the inventory were retired. Old bubbles were thrown away, 1 remaining MBH envelope will be put in the scrapbook, and some small envelopes can be used or given away. Some of the spoons may be given away at the luncheon.

7. Comments/Audience Participation.

James mentioned what may be a new crack in the wall of the parlor.

8. Adjournment: 6:20 pm