

Lawton Heritage Association
Regular Meeting Minutes (corrected)
Thursday, March 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 p.m.

Present: Sharon Stephen, Janie Brown, Mary Jane Jones, Jim Whiteley, Abby DeBaca, Elizabeth James, John Kennedy, Sylvia Moore, Yuri Schendel.

Not present: Michael Cornish, Mary Owensby, Craig Williams.

2. President's Report – Stephen

Stephen reported the Heart Healthy luncheon on February 16 was a success. Haley Wilson sent a cameraman from KSWO. He interviewed our speaker, Dr. Saliba. There was a segment about the event on the evening news. Dr. Saliba was a wonderful speaker. He gave a history lesson about his home in Lebanon. The women at the event said that would like to hear more about this history. Dr. Saliba said he would be happy to come back again. He started at noon and had done a lot of research. He spoke about 30 minutes and answered questions. Attendees ate their delicious box lunches while he spoke. Toward the end of the presentation a yummy desert was served. Stephen received a lot of compliments on the desert and the women liked the souvenir spoons they got to take home. During the event a drawing was held to give away four Christmas ornaments. Dr. Saliba was given an ornament with the MBH stained glass window. We received many positive comments about the event. Mary Owensby attended the event. She sent a lovely thank you note and a donation.

Stephen thanked John Kennedy for the donation of a pooper scooper and rake. This has saved wear and tear on everyone's backs.

Minnette Page had asked the Board to send a letter to the City Council supporting the preservation of the arch at Highland Cemetery. Schendel composed a wonderful letter. Stephen passed the letter around for Members to sign.

Stephen presented a letter from Jennifer Dunham. Dunham has resigned from the Board and her position as Docent Coordinator. She will continue as a docent on the first Saturday of each month.

Stephen, Schendel, DeBaca, and Jones met with Councilman Allan Hampton about the Highland Cemetery entrance. He encouraged us to mention in our letter the need for the work to be done by a company with experience with historic preservation. He also mentioned that the City has not done a good job of saving our historic buildings. Councilman Hampton is the Council representative for the Mattie Beal Home. Councilman Hampton said he would come back any time to talk to us.

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The electricians have not completed their work on the Fire Marshal's list. DeBaca said they were coming Wednesday, March 16 at 10:00 a.m. Stephen reported that Rid-a-Weed sprayed on Monday, March 7.

On the day of the Heart Healthy luncheon the house across the alley north of the Mattie Beal Home burned. Two cats and one dog were left behind. Animal control was contacted about the animals left behind. They sent someone out with bowls of food and water but would not take the animals. DeBaca contacted the Humane Society who came out and took two of the cats. There is still one more cat. The cats were spayed, given their shots and taken to PetSmart. One of the cats has been adopted. The dog was scared and was not caught. Stephen thanked DeBaca for purchasing a large bag of dog food for the dog. If we put out a live trap for the remaining cat, James will check on it.

Stephen reminded members to make sure the alarm is set before leaving when they are working as docents. There is a chirp that lets you know it has been set.

3. Treasurer's Report – Discuss and take appropriate action for approval /submitting for audit.

Motion to approve: Stephen. Second: James. Carried.

4. Minutes – Discuss and take appropriate action on February meeting.

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

5. Old Business-Discuss and take appropriate action.

6. New Business:

a. OK letter to the city council about Highland Cemetery Entrance Repairs.
(Discuss and get approval).

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

7. April 9th Easter Bunny fund raiser event. (Discuss and get approval)

Motion to approve holding the event, spending up to \$150.00 for supplies: Moore.
Second: James. Carried.

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

a. Docent Program/Docent Coordinator–

Stephen reported we do not currently have a Docent Coordinator; however, Schendel does have a list of current docents.

Schendel reported we will have Docent orientation on Saturday, March 12 at 10:00 a.m. People recommended by the Board as prospective docents have been invited to attend. We will serve tea, water, and cookies. This will be an opportunity for them to meet Board members, learn about the

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program, and ask questions. Hopefully some will sign up for training to become docents. The event should be over by noon.

b. Acquisitions – DeBaca

DeBaca reported the yard sale is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 11 from 8:00 a.m. until 2 or 3:00 p.m. Some items will be set out on Friday the 10th. Anyone working the event should be at the house at 7:00 a.m. to help finish setting up. Large items should be delivered on Friday.

c. Board Development – Brown

No report.

d. Finance – Jones

No report.

e. Events – Jones

Jones reported on the Heart Healthy lunch. There were 14 guests, 5 workers, and the speaker for a total of 20 lunches. We spent \$205.00. Food containers were purchased. There were containers left over that can be used in the future. Also purchased were an ice cream spade and scooper. Councilwoman Linda Chapman attended the event.

f. House Maintenance – Schendel

Schendel reported we are waiting on the electrician and Fire Marshall. Mike Cornish will install the Knox box on the south gate. Once Gary Heilman finishes work on the AC unit we should be finished with the Fire Marshall's list. Our deadline is March 31. We are waiting on the contractor to do some work on the house. He has been in contact with DeBaca. He may start next week.

g. Grounds Maintenance – Schendel

Schendel reported Rid-a-Week has sprayed. Moore reported that Brian with U.S. Lawns has been given the codes to the gates. He came to the house to show his crew the grounds. He agreed to the list of things we wanted done.

h. IT Committee – Sylvia

Moore was contacted by Lori Lee Hunter wanting to hold an event in May at the house, but she has not picked up the paperwork.

i. Marketing – Jones

Jones will create flyers and contact the media about the Easter event. James suggested contacting Fort Sill to let them know we have reopened. James also suggested checking the hotels to make sure they have our flyers.

j. Membership – Whiteley

No report.

k. Preservation – Whiteley

Whiteley reported the owner of the company the City hired to examine the arch at Highland Cemetery had died. As a result, the company cancelled many of their contracts, including with the City of Lawton. The City is now looking for another company to evaluate the arch.

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I. Gift Shop – Schendel

No report.

9. Comments/Audience Participation.

10. Adjournment. Time: 5:50 p.m.