

Lawton Heritage Association
Regular Meeting Agenda
Thursday, May 12, 2022 – 5:15 P.M.
Historic Mattie Beal Home, 1008 SE 5th St., Lawton, OK

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. Time: 5:19 p.m.

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

Not Present: Elizabeth James (excused), Mary Owensby, Craig Williams

2. President's Report

On Saturday, April 30th there was a wedding at the house. The rehearsal was Friday at 6:00 p.m. Stephen and Brown worked that event. The yard looked beautiful for the wedding. The flowerbed on the northeast corner of the house needs to have the intrusive vines pulled, they are taking over again. We need to contact U.S. Lawns. The Grounds Committee will meet to discuss the problem. On May 9th, Stephen and Jones spoke to the Girl Scouts about changes that have occurred in Lawton during their lifetimes. This helped the girls get one of the badges they needed. The girls were very sweet and asked a lot of questions. Mary Swafford and Clela Davis have had three training sessions and are ready to do tours. Stephen thanked DeBaca for ordering the mulch for the flower beds and Moore and her boys for spreading it. Stephen mentioned the roses are stunning. The Red Cord, an organization that fights human trafficking, will meet at the house on Sunday, May 22nd. Stephen and Jones were at the event in 2021 and got to hear the winners of an essay contest. Lori Lee Hunter with The Red Cord decorated beautifully for the event and provided delicious food. She also did a good job cleaning up after the event. Stephen thanked Schendel for her hard work on what will be a wonderful newsletter. Everyone should be on the lookout for it in their mailboxes. Stephen thanked Kennedy for coming to the April meeting after DeBaca called him. We would not otherwise have had a quorum. Stephen and Jones attended a tea at the Foreman Prairie House with two of their friends on May 7th. Stephen commented that our lawn looks much nicer and commended our yardman and the watering that Dixon has done. After a two-year delay, due to Covid, the Chattanooga school came for a tour on Wednesday, May 11th. Olivia, Jones' granddaughter was excited to share her knowledge of Mattie Beal and her home. Following the wedding in May Stephen and Jones discussed the need to update the rental policy to address when the renter would receive their deposit back once it is confirmed there are no problems. Moore discussed a number of problems with this rental. Following a discussion, it was decided to update the rental contract. The contract needs to specify what will be provided and have the renter sign off on all conditions of the rental. Moore will work with the committee to address key issues and update the contract.

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

We have received 1 Hotel/Motel check from the City and should receive another. Jones has submitted our request for next year.

Motion to accept: Brown. Second: Kennedy. Carried

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

Motion to accept as corrected: Schendel. Second: DeBaca. Carried

5. Old Business – Discuss and take appropriate action.

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6. New Business

1. Present and approve Slate of Officers (2022-2023) nominated by the Board Development Committee. The nominations will be presented at the June membership meeting.

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

2. Discuss changes to the bylaws and approve changes to be presented at the June general membership meeting. There is a change in the number of board members from 21 to 15. The number of members needed for a quorum would change to 5. Article 4, Section 3 would allow members to serve 3 three-year terms. A Special Exception could be made for a 4th term with a quorum vote of the Board. There will be a 1-year break before a member could continue to serve. Board members may only miss 3 consecutive meetings unexcused.

Motion to approve: Kennedy. Second: Moore. Carried.

3. Approve reimbursement request from Yuri Schendel for newsletter related expenses etc. \$91.51 (stamps, address labels, mailing wafer seals, storage containers).

Motion to approve: Cornish. Second: Moore. Carried.

7. Committee/Coordinator Reports

a. Docent Program – Brown

We have new docents we can schedule to work. Some docents are volunteering twice a month, but they are training new, less experienced docents.

b. Acquisition Committee – DeBaca

The yard sale will be Saturday, May 28th from 8 to 2. Starting Monday, the 23rd DeBaca and Schendel, and anyone who would like to help will be pricing items for the sale. They will start at 1:00 on Monday, 10:00 the other days. On Friday, tables and boxes will be moved outside to be set up Saturday morning. Stephen volunteered to put the ad in the newspaper. The sale is cash only and we are still looking for items. Whatever isn't sold will be picked up by Super Thrift.

c. Board Development – Brown

Brown requested a Committee meeting for Thursday the 19th at 3:00 to discuss updates to the rental contract.

d. Finance – Jones

We have changed insurance on the rent house. We had been paying \$50.00 a year but wanted to increase coverage. The new policy is with Humble Insurance. The cost is \$641.00 for full coverage. The policy covers \$62,000 for the dwelling, \$6,200 for other structures, \$12,400 fair rental value, \$500 for liability, and \$10,000 for medical payments. Mike Humble will get us information about insuring the Mattie Beal Home.

e. Events – Jones

Next May we may host an event for national pet month. Jones has talked to a woman who makes pets treats, but she was unavailable this month. In

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June or July LaNette Nichols may present a Lunch and Learn event about pioneer women.

f. House Maintenance – Schendel

We are waiting on the contractor to take care of repairs. Once the drain issue is taken care of, we will be done with the requirements from the Fire Marshall. Schendel reported we were featured in the latest Lawton Living Magazine. They gave us 100 copies that are in the gift shop.

g. Ground Committee – DeBaca

The roses have been fertilized twice. DeBaca and Terry Dixon fertilize the roses once a month. In the southwest flowerbed irises, obtained by Moore, from Mattie and Charles' house at 503 Summit have been planted. Police Officer Studebaker visited the Mattie Beal Home one day and told Brown that the other house was on the D and D list. He had an old photo of the house. Moore confirmed with the County Clerk that it was Mattie and Charles' house. Stexton Brothers had the contract to raze the house. They told DeBaca and Moore they could take whatever they wanted from the house. They saved the front door, a five-panel door, and a few other items in the house. We may use the front door somewhere at the house. Whiteley obtained from the Museum of the Great Plains a copy of the old photo of the house. That photo, along with others recently donated are with Kris Gill to be framed when we have the money. One of the trees in the yard needs to be restaked.

h. IT Committee – Moore

Moore has contacted Sooner Security to get passcodes for six new docents.

i. Marketing – Jones

Jones is working on a list of hotels to take our brochures to.

j. Membership – Whiteley

Renewals have been sent out.

k. Preservation – Whiteley

May 24 there will be a free workshop at the museum about emergency response and recovery for museums, historical societies etc.

l. Gift Shop – Schendel

We have sold some books. We may not get as much interest since we had to remove the light from the case.

8. Comments/Audience Participation

9. Adjournment. Time: 6:07 p.m.