

Lawton Heritage Association
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 14, 2021 – 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, Jennifer Dunham, John Kennedy, Dee McAllister, Sylvia Moore, Yuri Schendel, Craig Williams

Not Present: Michael Cornish, Abby DeBaca (excused), Elizabeth James (excused), Mary Owensby (excused)

Melva Mullins has resigned from the Board.

2. President's Report – Stephen

Mattie Beal's birthday tea was a great success. We had a crowd of about 30 guests and plenty of volunteers. Jones had every detail laid out for the volunteers. The food was delicious, and we had numerous compliments from our guests. Randi Bass and Madison Dutil were our servers, they kept the teapots full. Terry Dixon did a great job and learned how to brew tea. Whiteley did a great job checking people in and playing beautiful tea party music. DeBaca portrayed Mattie and told her story. DeBaca has a new job for the next tea, portraying Mattie Beal. She has said she will try and find someone to play Charles Payne. DeBaca and Schendel gave tours of the house. Docent Albert Rivas was on KSWO and local radio stations advertising the tea party. He recently received the Governor's Community Service Award within the arts at a ceremony in Oklahoma City. Kristin Chenoweth received an award at the same time. Dixon has been watering trees and flowers every Tuesday. We had a photo shoot at the house on October 4th which turned out beautifully. McAllister cleaned up dog poop in the yard prior to the bride's arrival. They took photos inside and outside the house. Stephen thanked Williams; the yard looked beautiful for the shoot. Stephen and McAllister saw two puppies picked up by animal control on the day of the photo shoot. The other dogs were sheltered under and in the neighbor's house. There were four animal control officers present. They tried to collect the other dogs but the residents of the house would not come out. The officers threatened them with a search warrant and breaking down the door. The officers stayed for most of the photo shoot. The residents did not come out until after the officers had left. One of the officers said they would keep checking and try to get the other dogs.

A new LHA cell phone has been purchased. The phone is on Cornish's U.S. Cellular account. Stephen thanked Cornish for helping get that taken care of.

Stephen thanked Schendel for going to the Chamber of Commerce's meeting about a kiosk in the airport. Schendel reported they are developing an app for places to visit in Lawton. She has provided them with photos and information about the Mattie Beal Home.

Stephen reported Dunham has had some scary encounters with the neighbor's dogs which are still coming into the yard. Dunham reported four charged her, barking and snarling. The second time, two dogs ran up barking as she was opening the gate for some guests. Stephen thanked Dunham for letting us know when dates are open that we need docents and thanked the docents that have stepped up and done extra work. This Saturday will be our porch party from 4 to 7.

3. Treasurer's Reports – Discuss and take appropriate action for approval /submitting for audit.
Motion to approve: Dunham. Second: Kennedy. Carried.
4. Minutes – Discuss and take appropriate action on July meeting.
Motion to approve: Kennedy. Second: Williams. Carried.
5. Old Business-Discuss and take appropriate action.
 - a. Approval of contract for new web designer. – Whiteley
Whiteley and Moore met with Jonathan Bennet. Mr. Bennett confirmed there is no additional cost for him to move and clean up the existing LHA website. The contract was signed at a rate of \$50.00 a month. John Hutchinson would not provide information to transfer the domain and website until his outstanding bill, \$50.00, was paid. The finance committee agreed to pay him on the condition that he provide the information first. Hutchinson has been paid and the website has been transferred to Bennett's servers. Moore and Whiteley will meet with Bennett to transfer the domain to LHA's GoDaddy account. The Board approved the contract at the September meeting. If there needs to be changes or additions to the website the information should be given to Moore or Whiteley.
 - b. Approval of payments to Mike Cornish for purchases of items for 403 Summit. –Jones
Cornish has invoiced LHA for work done at the rent house. The Board had previously approved paying Jones for work done once invoiced. Current tenants of the house have not paid the rent. Jones will contact Jones to see if they have paid.
Motion to table payment for purchases until invoiced.: Schendel. Second: McAllister Carried.
 - c. Update on saving of Coralberry bushes and hydrangeas. – Williams
Coralberries are just starting to turn. Everything will be cleaned out.
6. New Business –
 - a. Approval retroactivity for purchases of supplies for Porch Party. – Jones
Jones has purchased supplies for the Porch Party.
Motion to approve: Moore. Second: Williams. Carried.
 - b. Formation of Committee to study and report to the Board if policies and procedures are needed regarding dangerous dogs and other threatening situations that may arise at MB.- Brown or Dunham
Schendel discussed a need to have a policy or guidelines, including phone numbers, for dealing with unsafe/emergency situations.
Motion to approve: Moore. Second: Schendel. Carried.

Dunham, McAllister, Schendel, Moore, and Whiteley will be on the Committee. Dunham will chair the committee.

- c. Event Committee Chair will enlist volunteers for events and volunteers will pay half price. – Brown

Recommendation of the Board Development Committee for the Chair of the Event Committee to designate who will work an event. Those designated will pay half-price for the event, all others will pay full price. There was a discussion about those working the event to wear name tags identifying them for quests. Dunham volunteered to make badges.

Motion to approve recommendation and name tags: Moore. Second: McAllister
Carried

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

- a. Docent Program/Docent Coordinator – Dunham

Due to health issues, Imogene Wilkinson has resigned from being a docent. Dunham's husband Dan has given information about the Mattie Beal Home to a Facebook group, Forgotten Oklahoma, for their upcoming road trip to the area. Six docents have agreed to help with the Porch Party. Jones stated that the Committee has enough people to help with this event. Docent Terry Dixon has offered to help. Dunham had a group of 16 people from her church, Locust Grove Day at Mattie Beal, visit during a day she volunteered, October 2, and suggested other Board member consider doing something similar. Of the 16 guests, only 1 had been to the home before. Summer is now a full docent. She has been given her codes and is working the first Sunday of each month. Once Terry receives more training and is comfortable Dunham will make sure he has someone with him on the days he volunteers. Justin Green from Geronimo is a prospective docent. He is a volunteer firefighter, member of Young Professionals, on the board of directors of Hungry Hearts, and has worked at City National Bank for 13 years. He toured the house with Dunham on October 2. He will begin his training with Moore on October 23. We need docents on October 30 and 31. Moore has a potential docent, Mitzi Duncan who will let us know in the new year if she is still interested.

- b. Acquisitions – De Baca

No report.

- c. Board Development – Brown

The board notebooks are finished.

- d. Finance – Jones

Moore has been added to the LHA email account. Jones contacted Fidelity Communications about internet service for the house. The cost would be \$65.00 to \$70.00. The Finance Committee decided to wait until spring before making a decision. We took in \$600.00 at the tea party. The cost of the event was \$313.16. We made a profit of \$286.84.

- e. Events – Jones
Jones has extra flyers for the Porch Party if anyone would like to put them out. The house will be decorated on Friday for the Saturday event. Decorations include 12 bales of hay. The gate fee is \$1.00 and \$5.00 for lunch, hot dog, chips, water, and a cookie.
 - f. House Maintenance – Cornish
No report.
 - g. Grounds Maintenance – Schendel
Schendel has ordered a two-year supply of air filters for the two air conditioning units in the basement, 2 ink cartridges, and a box of printing paper. She replaced the toilet flapper valve, so has ordered another one. The company that made them has gone out of business, so she had to get one from eBay. Cornish suggested we get more so Schendel will keep looking for them. Two burned out lightbulbs in the reception area and 1 in the hallway have been replaced. When Dixon removed the bulb in the hallway the socket came loose. DeBaca's husband fixed the light fixture. The neighbor's dogs prevented Schendel from replacing the damaged clean-out cap. She will take the current cap someplace to find a replacement. Rid-a-weed treated the lawn with pre-emergent. The neighborhood dogs have designated a tree on the north side as a toilet which has killed the grass around the tree.
 - h. IT Committee – Sylvia
Previously reported.
 - i. Marketing – Jones
County Times and The Lawton Constitution have published information about the porch party event. Jones put a flyer up at Veridian Coffee. KSWO will try to have something up this week.
 - j. Membership – Whiteley
No report.
 - k. Preservation – Whiteley
No report.
 - l. Gift Shop – McCallister
McAllister thanked whoever put together the Christmas card bundles together. They are getting attention. We have sold 13 cards. People seem to want one to commemorate their visit to the home. If we don't sell them all this year, we will have them for next year.
- 8. Comments/Audience Participation.
 - 9. Adjournment. Time: 6:08 p.m.