

Lawton Heritage Association
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 11, 2021 – 5:15 P.M.
Historic Mattie Beal Home, 1008 SE 5th St., Lawton, OK

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. Time: 5:13 p.m.

Present: Sharon Stephen, Janie Brown, Mary Jane Jones, Jim Whiteley, Michael Cornish, Jennifer Dunham, John Kennedy, Dee McAllister, Sylvia Moore, Yuri Schendel

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

2. President's Report – Stephen

Mattie's Porch Party went really well. We had a nice turnout. Most of the people who attended purchased hot dog dinners. It was a beautiful fall evening. Thanks to Jim for taking photos and Janie, Sylvia, and Mary Jane for decorating for the event. Janie, Sylvia, Yuri, and Terry Dixon helped with food. Mary Jane took money at the front gate. During the event a very nice woman with three children, her nieces and nephew, attended and took pictures. When asked if they could have a hot dog, the woman told the kids they would eat at home. A man who was getting his hot dog at the time paid for the family's dinner. Stephen thanked John Kennedy for his generous donation for the event. He also helped Mary Jane and Steve Cherry unload hay for the event during our October meeting. Sylvia made a cute scarecrow, Jethro, for the event. He is now stored in the basement to be used in the future. Janie brought beautiful fall decorations and Sylvia, Janie, and Yuri took care of the kitchen. Sharon handed out hot dogs and Terry handed out chips, cookies, and water. Jennifer commented on how beautiful the decorations were. On October 23rd the Sooner Thunderbird Car Club visited the house. They brought 15 shiny T-Birds that Saturday morning. The group was very interested in Mattie and the house and repeatedly thanked Dee, Sylvia, and Sharon for the tour. Sharon commented how nice and attentive the group was. Scott Rains with the Lawton Constitution interviewed several members of the Club. We had good newspaper coverage for the event and a front-page article about the Porch Party. Stephen thanked Yuri and her husband Larry for removing two pecan tree limbs that had fallen in the parking area. Stephen complimented Craig on the appearance of the lawn for the Porch Party. Stephen commented on what a good job Terry Dixon is doing watering the trees and plants. She also thanked Jennifer for attending the Porch Party and chairing the Safety Committee. The neighbor's dogs were not out during the Porch Party but were around when the car club visited. Instead of a board meeting in December, there will be a Christmas party for board members. Stephen let the board know that we would be decorating the house for Christmas on November 27th at 9:00 a.m.

3. Treasurer's Reports – Discuss and take appropriate action for approval /submitting for audit.
Motion to approve: Brown. Second: Kennedy. Carried.
4. Minutes – Discuss and take appropriate action on the October meeting.
Motion to approve: Cornish. Second: Brown. Carried.
5. Old Business-Discuss and take appropriate action.
6. Accept invoices from Mike Cornish for purchases for rental house purchases.
Motion to table until we receive the invoices: Schendel. Second: Moore. Carried.
 - a. Update on saving of Coralberry bushes and hydrangeas. – Williams
No report.
7. New Business –
 - a. We have such a small number of docents. We need to decide if we go to the house being open 3 days a week versus 4 days a week.
Dunham suggested if we do change to 3 days, it should only be until the end of the school year since we are busy in the summer. Discussion of temporarily moving to winter hours. Not opening on Sunday. Schendel noted our busiest days are Friday and Saturday. Because Sundays are covered in December, and we are closed the month of January, it was suggested we start winter hours in February. It was agreed we need to get signs updating the hours. Affinity, the company that did our t-shirts, may also do magnetic signs. Dunham suggested a sign to identify the front gate is the entrance to the grounds.
Motion to open for three days per week in February and March.
Motion: Dunham. Second: Brown. Carried
 - b. Approval for Santa Event on December 5 from 2-5pm.
Pictures with Santa. We have a Santa who will be at the event. Whiteley has agreed to take pictures. The charge will be \$5.00 a person. We will also offer a story time, balloon animals, and possibly a sing-along. Guests will receive a cookie and candy cane. We have cookie dough left over from the porch party that we will use.
Motion to approve: McAllister. Ho-Ho-Ho (second): Cornish. Carried.
8. Committee/Coordinator Reports – Discuss and take appropriate action
 - a. Docent Program/Docent Coordinator and Safety Committee – Dunham
Dunham had trouble getting the front door closed. She broke a rib getting it closed. McAllister has also had trouble with the door. The staircase door upstairs also has problems, possibly due to humidity. McAllister volunteered to help Dunham on Friday. Dixon will be working the first Thursday of the month with McAllister. The safety committee met the day of the porch party and created a set of guidelines. Any suggestions for changes or additions should be sent to Dunham. Schendel suggested a section for accidents. Dunham and McAllister met with the Fire Marshall, Michael J. Wright, and City of Lawton building code supervisor, Charlotte Brown. Together, they toured the house. Neither had been to the house before. The Fire Marshall had a list of changes that need to be made. We have 30 days to comply. The list was given

- to board members. Charlotte Brown will send electric and plumbing inspectors. Kennedy suggested we start with things we can do for little or no cost and let the City know we are working on the list.
- b. Acquisitions – DeBaca
No report.
 - c. Board Development – Brown
There will be no December meeting.
 - d. Finance – Jones
No report.
 - e. Events – Jones
We made \$215.00 at Mattie’s Porch Party, the expenses were \$236.13. Several items were purchased; trash bags, food containers, cookie dough, tote for the decorations, water and chips; that will be used again. We had approximately 34 guests and good media coverage. We need a chair for Santa for the Pictures with Santa event.
 - f. House Maintenance – Cornish
Schendel reported that the portico lights have been replaced with photoelectric bulbs. The switch for the lights needs to be on at all times. She has replaced light bulbs and batteries in the keypad in the kitchen.
 - g. Grounds Maintenance – Schendel
Two large pecan tree limbs that fell have been removed. Five dogs are still around. Cornish suggested we continue to contact animal control
 - h. IT Committee – Sylvia
Moore read a letter of thanks from the Mr. Thomas with the Sooner Thunderbird Car Club. There is a possible tour group the first week of December. Ms. Reader, a woman from Kansas, sent us some quilts.
 - i. Marketing – Jones
We have flyers for the Pictures with Santa if anyone knows any place they can be put up. Jones will contact TV, newspaper, and radio outlets for the event.
 - j. Membership – Whiteley
No report.
 - k. Preservation – Whiteley
No report.
 - l. Gift Shop – McCallister
History books in the case have been sold. There are more in the basement.
9. Comments/Audience Participation.
Schendel: Lawton Chamber of Commerce is working of the tour app. DeBaca will record the dialog that goes with the LHA portion.
10. Adjournment: 6:12 p.m.