

Special Called Meeting

April 28, 2009

6:00 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Carol Cross, Sarah Lynn McHugh, Gail Wade, Ona Nunn

Not Present: Elzata Brown

Also Present: Tara Cooner, Danielle Peck, John Wade

I. Opening and Welcome

Carol Cross welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Update on Oral History Project and Budget

Ms. Cross explained that she and Tara Cooner had discussed the need for the Special Called meeting on the phone after the budget for the Oral History Project was changed. Ms. Cross asked Ms. Cooner to explain the decisions that had been made regarding the budget. Ms. Cooner informed the Board that money had been requested for the upcoming 2009/2010 budget, beginning in July, for the Oral History Project. The request had been denied based on lack of funds available. Ms. Cooner and Planning and Development Director Chuck Jarrell had discussed appealing the decision with Morgan County Manager Michael Lamar. Mr. Lamar's solution was to examine the money left at the end of the current budget cycle and to allow a portion of those funds to be used for additional interviews. This decision was supported and approved by the Board of Commissioners.

This decision allows the Oral History Project to move forward, but also creates the need to move quickly with the next round of interviews. The purpose of the Special Called Meeting is for the Board to determine what communities will be the focus of the next round of interviews, who will be asked to participate, who will contact those individuals and where the interviews will take place.

Ms. Cooner explained that the Bank of Madison Annex may not be available for use for future interviews due to an incident that occurred during the April 18 interview sessions. Although a note had been placed on the door to the Annex asking visitors to enter quietly, a man had come in to repot, or add soil to, a plant in the lobby, outside the conference room where the interviews were being filmed. The excessive noise created by the man prompted Danielle Peck to approach him and ask politely if he could be quiet. Ms. Peck apologized for the request and mentioned that filming was taking place in the adjacent room. The man responded and continued to make noise. Ms. Peck did not approach him again. On the following Monday, Ms. Cooner was informed that the man was an executive for the bank and that he was angry about being approached by Ms. Peck. She was told that he had complained to the bank president and the bank could not be used for the Oral History Project in the future. Ms. Cooner explained that she had discussed the situation with Mr. Jarrell, who said he would call the executive to speak to him about the incident.

III. Summer 2009 Oral History Interviews

Communities

Ms. Cooner distributed a list of the communities in Morgan County. Ms. Cross pointed out that the communities of Plainview and Enterprise were missing. After brief discussion, the communities selected for the summer 2009 interviews were Rutledge, Bethany, Fairplay, Brownwood/Thankful, and Godfrey.

Possible participants

Ms. Cooner provided several names that had been previously suggested for the communities of Rutledge and Fairplay. The Board members agreed that those names were good candidates for those communities. Several possible participants were named for each community. Specific consideration was given to African-Americans in the communities and the Board agreed that names would need to be suggested by others. The Board also discussed who would be approached first for each community. A list of names by community is attached to these Minutes.

Who will contact

As with the previous round of interviews, it was agreed that the Board members would contact the possible participants. Each Board member informed Ms. Cooner of who they would contact. When possible participants could be contacted would depend on venue availability. Ms. Cooner said she would contact each member when the venue and dates were determined. The Board member responsible for contacting each possible participant is included on the list of named attached to these Minutes.

Venues

While hope was expressed that Mr. Jarrell would be able to secure the Bank of Madison Annex again, other possibilities were discussed. Ms. Cooner explained that she and Mr. Jarrell had looked at the Morgan County Courthouse and found one possible location. Ms. Cross volunteered to speak to Richard Simpson of Morgan County Landmarks regarding use of the Richter Cottage. Ona Nunn suggested the Susie Agnes in Bostwick. Gail Wade volunteered the use of her home in Buckhead. The possibility of using a church space was also discussed. Ms. Cooner said she would contact the Board members when Mr. Jarrell had spoken to Mr. Hanes.

Possible dates

The two Saturdays will need to be separated by approximately 3 weeks. Due to the urgency to complete the interviews, the dates will need to be scheduled in early June and early July. However, the dates will be determined by the availability of a venue.

IV. Additional Business

No additional business was discussed.

VII. Adjourn

Carol Cross adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Date_____

Date_____

Tara Cooner, Secretary

Carol Cross, Chairman

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List of possible interview participants by community. Board members are listed beside names of possible participants to contact.

Rutledge

Jack Frost

Felton Jenkins

Runae Daws - Sarah Lynn McHugh

David Dickson

Paul Hensler - Sarah Lynn McHugh

Ted Wallace

Richard Hubbard - Sarah Lynn McHugh

Fairplay

Wilma Adair Early - Sarah Lynn McHugh

Jessie Adair - Ona Nunn

Dr. William Hanson

C.W. Mitchem

Eugene Mitchem

John Hanson (Harry's dad)

Morgan County Resource Preservation Advisory Board

Bethany

Blanche Wilson

Mary Eaton - Gail Wade

Frances Brewer - Gail Wade

Gail will ask the Bethany folks to suggest an African American from the Bethany community

Robert Morehead

Brownwood/Thankful

James Harold Smith - Carol Cross

Mrs. John Knight - Carol Corss

Ann Harrison

Tara will ask Mary at County office to suggest Thankful Candidate

Godfrey

Aubrey Moon - Carol Cross

Tommy Lawrence - Carol Cross

Fanny Hardeman

Winnefred (lives in Athens)