

Murray History Advisory Board
Minutes for May 24, 2016

Attendance: Sara Roach, Syanna Madsen, Wendy DeMann, Will Perez, Rebecca Santa Cruz,
Mary Ann Kirk (staff)

Excused: Ian Wright

1. Minutes for April 26, 2016 were approved with a small clarification for the Citizenship in the Community Scout Merit Badge.
2. Mary Ann reviewed board appointments. There is a current vacancy since Brittany moved. Ian will be finished with his second term in August. We will need to find replacements for both of these. Syanna and Sara were willing to continue a 2nd term although Syanna indicated she is checking on a situation that would prevent her from continuing. Mary Ann sent some information to a woman who attended the downtown tour to see if she was interested in serving on the board. Wendy suggested Debbie Hansen or her mother Sharon Weiss might be good.
3. Mary Ann thanked Will for making the history presentation to the City Council. He did a great job. She also thanked Syanna for leading the downtown tour. We had 11 in attendance including a planning and zoning commission member. He wanted to learn about the historic buildings in the MCCD zone. He was interested in seeing the power point presentation on the protected buildings.
4. Cemetery tours are in progress with more tours this year. A Pioneer tour on July 23 will include the Miller Home at 10 am and Huffacker/Walton home at 11 am. Rebecca will be the guide for the Walton/Huffacker Home and Wendy said she could be the guide for the Miller Home. Rebecca suggested people park in the church parking lot. Rebecca will check on the pioneer burial area.
5. We need a new person to coordinate our facebook page. Sara will get Brittany to add her as an admin so we can get access to it. Jennifer Broschinsky was willing to do both art and history facebook pages. We don't have many followers. D. Wright suggested combining the two pages but Syanna suggested cross posting and keeping them separate. Mary Ann wasn't sure people outside of Murray would be interested in Murray history. Syanna felt we could develop interest with people who don't have a connection to a specific community near Murray. Mary Ann said we will need to forward all the photos and info from board members to the new administrator. Then we will need to keep feeding photos since she does not go out and take photos herself.
6. Mary Ann is working on a project for Murray High's centennial. She has been looking for the oldest alumni. She found three who are 100 years old. She is inviting MHS alumni who attended or graduated in 1942 or earlier to ride in the Murray Fun Days parade. She needs to do some oral histories of these people quickly.

7. Mary Ann reported that the city did not fund the request for a 30 hour museum professional. Mary Ann has indicated she plans to change the assignment for the current 20 hour position at the museum to her administrative assistant for a year so that individual can experience the year round arts and history programming and help the person who replaces Mary Ann when she retires in January 2018. This leaves the museum with no staffing as of January 2017. It will be closed unless the city provides funding for staffing. The city council added intent language to review the situation in January. Mary Ann hopes they will provide funding for the original request of a 30 hour benefitted position. She believes the position is critical to sustain the museum long term and to provide proper stewardship of city assets. It needs someone with strong museum experience. She believes finding a knowledgeable committed 20 hour staff person who will sustain the museum long term would be very difficult and it could become a revolving door with individuals who know little about Murray history or museum administration. Volunteers can help on various projects, but someone needs to be in charge and responsible for the museum. Rebecca was worried about security and felt that things could start walking out the door with volunteers only. Syanna felt that perspective donors are not going to donate items to a museum that does not have professional management. Wendy asked if there were professional people interested in this job. Mary Ann shared the job description she created with several state agencies and they felt it would attract a number of qualified applicants. HR and the Mayor have the job description. Board members have six months to communicate this issue with their own city council members. Mary Ann doesn't want the museum to go backwards when she retires. It has involved a lot of work. Mary Ann also noted that grants are available if staff has time to write the grants. She has not had time to write some grants but the museum must be opened 20 hours a week to qualify.
8. The vision statement was reviewed and revised to read:
As the steward of Murray history, the Murray City Museum's purpose is to document, preserve, study, and interpret the history of Murray. To fulfill its mission, museum leadership envisions a visible and easily accessible location with space of 7,000+ sq feet to host changing exhibits and interactive experiences that enhance our permanent exhibits and promotes best practices in museum administration; increase interaction through community events, resource accessibility, and programming within the museum to increase visitation; outreach programming that educates the community and meets educational standards for school instruction; and increased professional staffing who can support enhanced programming and longer museum hours.
9. Rebecca really liked the mailer that included the top 10 things not to do on historic buildings. She wondered if we could post that on facebook. We could feature one item each week but not many people have "liked" our page so direct mailers reach more people.
10. Wendy asked if we could start collecting stories for our Halloween tour planned for Wheeler Farm next October. Sara will look for stories so Wendy can begin early. Mary Ann suggested it have something to do with Wheeler Farm itself.
11. Our next meeting is scheduled on June 28. Rebecca will be absent that day.