

Murray History Advisory Board
Minutes for July 22, 2014

Attendance: Ian Wright, Susan Wright, Sara Roach, Reed Wahlquist, Brittany Bremer, Mary Ann Kirk (staff).

Excused: Wendy DeMann, Peter Steele

1. Minutes for June 24, 2014 were approved as written. Board members were asked to fill out time sheets for matching funds for a grant.
2. Brittany and Wendy have been looking for smelter stories for the cemetery tour in the old Murray Eagle obituaries. Mary Ann suggested they use the original cemetery books which will show cause of death. Mary Ann suggested we do it on Saturday, October 25 starting at 7 pm. The arts board suggested we issue tickets for specific times every 15 minutes. That way we can control the number of people at specific times. History board members liked that idea. Each tour would feature about 5 stories. That would accommodate about 200-300 people. Brittany reminded Mary Ann to reserve the parking lot across the street. Mary Ann will talk to Mike Todd. Susan said we should block off the entrances to the cemetery so we don't have cars all over. People would meet at the cemetery office to start the tour. Mary Ann, Wendy, and Brittany can meet to finalize stories. It might be fun to start at the grave of the first sexton. Susan can help provide costumes. Ian and Susan are interested in telling stories. Other board members could help guide tours.
3. Mary Ann reported that the Mayor has decided to include the museum in city hall rather than the power building or the armory building. The contractors will be meeting with the various departments to determine their needs. If a downtown location is chosen near the Harker or Murray Mercantile, the board liked the idea of possibly housing the museum in one of these historic buildings, adjacent to a new city hall.
4. The Park Board did not support the idea of moving the Freeze barn into Murray Park. They suggested moving it to Wheeler Farm. Sara did not think Wheeler Farm could use it. She noted that Draper has restored a barn which is used for rentals. Board members suggested a restoration project could be sponsored by an Eagle Scout Project and some willing contractors. Brittany liked the idea of using it for the Farmer's Market. Mary Ann noted the MCCD zone had plans for a historic park around the Cahoon Mansion. If that moved forward, perhaps the barn could be featured there. Susan felt it needs to stay in the park to maintain its historical context. If it was moved just a few feet into the park, the interior could be restored and used as a rental for birthday parties. Many groups would use it for preparing and serving food with access to the park. She said she gets many calls from individuals wanting to rent her facilities. She will call the Mayor with her ideas.

Board members asked about the Indian head at the entrance of Murray Park. Mary Ann said it has been rotting on the inside for a number of years. If it is destroyed, she would like to move the Murray Laundry Tower to that site. The laundry business originally was located just on the other side of the creek but was moved when the daily gas releases were making the kids sick at the nearby Arlington Elementary School. We will continue to monitor this situation.

5. Current projects were reviewed:

- a. Listening stations are mostly complete. The locations where they are attached are a little strange in a few places but we can correct that when we move into a new museum.
 - b. We applied for a CLG grant for a mobile app program for the 20 historic buildings in the MCCD zone. Judson Calloway, author of the Murray History Spotter's Guide, will help us gather everything. We need photos, text, and some audio. We will be interviewing seniors to get specific stories about each building.
 - c. The Murray History Hunt has been running for the past three weeks on facebook and instagram. Every Thursday, we post a photo under the title "Throwback Thursday." We have featured the Murray Park archway, the smelter plaza by IMC, and the art collection in City Hall. People are encouraged to guess where the photo was taken. The first person to guess it correctly by the following Monday wins a Murray history book of their choice. We then post a description of the location. So far we have only had three followers. Brittany suggested we use multiple hash tags and use different names so it is easy to find. Mary Ann suggested Brittany and Ian give us some suggestions on how to get people to like follow the pages.
 - d. Mary Ann will be meeting with the potential owners of the Ore Sampling Mill. It is under contract. The owners have met with the Utah Preservation Office in regards to tax credits. There are some concerns about some of the buildings they are suggesting must be preserved. The owners are exploring the idea of a museum related to the mining industry. Ian wanted to attend the meeting. Mary Ann will let board members know when the meeting is if they would like to attend.
6. The Hillside District nomination was approved by the state preservation board and will be forwarded to the national board. Our consultant is now working on individual nominations. We have formal approval for the Adams Home (307 E Winchester), Power Building, Bradford Home (570 E 4800 South) , and 1235 E 6600 South. Mary Ann instructed Korral to move ahead with nominations for the Bennion Flour Mill and the Miller Home even though we have not received formal approval. They will have to sign permission forms before it can be formally reviewed, but it will give the SHPO office good material for those any future owners. Korral will select one additional home that she things will be the easiest from the Ereksen home by the sports mall, the craft bungalow on Ereksen Lane, or the Mackay home. We can do additional homes when we get our next grant.

Mary Ann discussed ideas for block parties next May for the two historic residential districts – the downtown residential district and the Hillside District. Mary Ann wanted to talk with the owners of the new condos on Center Street to see if they could host a block party next May. This might help improve relationships with the historic neighborhood. Board members thought it might be too much to have two different block parties. Brittany suggested we find the date of when the first subdivision of Alpine Gardens started construction and tie the Hillside District block party into that date.

Mary Ann explained we used to sponsor a Murray Vintage Days every year in May. We rented a trolley for tours. Bill Wright organized performing groups around the Mansion. We could possibly do something like that for a block party in historic downtown.

7. The museum has accepted a Madsen Hardware display case that was used at Day Murray Music instrumental store which was recently closed at the back of Day Murray Music. The empty case was moved by the Ereksen sleigh. An intern will be creating an audio/video exhibit for the sleigh featuring the Ereksen family.

An older woman who has donated many of the Erektion artifacts is still alive and will be interviewed about her memories of life on the Erektion farm where she grew up.

Mary Ann suggested we move forward with new display cases for city hall. She recommended the topics of City Departments, Gadgets – Life at Home, Businesses/Machines, Man of All Trades (Jewitt Family), Historic Homes, and Lost and Found. Ian suggested a “token” exhibit to encourage people to donate or share tokens related to Murray. He said many organizations used tokens at bars, grocery stores, buses, etc. Brittany suggested we sponsor an “antique roadshow” where people brought artifacts they wanted to know about and professionals could help describe what they were used for. Ian suggested we sponsor something like this every year.

Mary Ann recommended dismantling the display cases on Friday, September 12 and designing the new display cases on Saturday, September 13. We will ask volunteers to help us do condition reports on the items that are taken out and clean the exhibit space. Norm Nelson, a professional exhibit designer will help us create the displays on Saturday. A Museum Day will be planned on Saturday, September 27. It will feature the new listening stations and the new exhibits.