

Murray History Advisory Board
Minutes for June 23, 2015

Attendance: Syanna Madsen, Sara Roach, Brittany Bremer, Ian Wright, Reed Wahlquist, Wendy DeMann, Mary Ann Kirk (staff)

Excused: Will Perez

1. Minutes for May 26, 2015 were approved as written.
2. Cemetery tours were a success with 17 classrooms from 4 schools who attended with approximately 500 students and parents. Mary Ann thanked board members who helped with storytelling. A total of 34 attended the Hillside District Tour. We had a good mix of residents in the neighborhood and other residents in and outside of Murray. They expressed interest in a pioneer home tour. Someone attended from the ZAP board which surprised Mary Ann. She didn't think this was a ZAP activity but she acknowledged ZAP at the suggestion of the ZAP board member.
3. The state board National Register review for the Erikson and Brown House nominations will be held on July 16 at 12:15. Mary Ann will remind board members who are welcome to attend.
4. Mary Ann has not been able to secure the Miller house for a pioneer home tour in July. They are changing owners. The owners of the Wesley home were not available either. The Amundsen home is a possibility but we are very late to plan and publicize it. Mary Ann suggested we wait a year since July is very busy for her this year. Mary Ann asked Sara to find out if the state or UMA is promoting Museum Day this year. They meet in July which is kind of late to get something planned in September. They use to connect it with Smithsonian Day but our state called it Celebrate Museum Day. It was usually held the last Saturday in September. Sara wondered if an activity or tours could be connected to the museum conference in October.
5. Plans for a Halloween related history activity along the Jordan River Parkway was discussed. Mary Ann indicated the art board was doing an art activity in September and wondered if we could combine the two. Board members preferred the October time frame. Mary Ann will check on calendar conflicts for October 16-17 or October 23-24. Wendy thought people can dress for the weather if it turns cold at the later dates. Mary Ann wondered how we would funnel people along the parkway without backtracking. Syanna asked if there was something that could loop. Mary Ann will check to see if we could circle people around using the horse trail near Germania Park. Wendy has been exploring stories about wild Bill Hickman, Nephi Winchester/gold processing, and a story about pioneer and Indian kids playing a game tossing fire sticks across a stream. Wendy is looking for a bridge that could work for this story. Reed said one of the books about Bill Hickman was written by Hope Hilton. Board members suggested Wheeler Farm would be a fun location for another year. Wendy said that Korral found another murder story. Sara said that Wheeler Farm home has ghost stories and the farm itself has a recent murder story involving a hanging. Reed noted that there are stories about bodies being dumped in the river. We will put this year's activities on the agenda for next month.

6. Mary Ann attended a legal museum workshop supposedly for small museums. She was disappointed that the instructor shared many examples focused on fairly large art museums when the conference attendees were mostly small community history museums. Things that were of most interest related to establishing provenance and copyright issues related to art exhibits. There was also a question about whether we can charge people to use a photo image in our collection taken before 1923 since it is in public domain. Is our fee for our time or for the image itself? Sara said Wheeler Farm charges businesses who want an image for their foyer. Mary Ann said they let businesses use images without a fee for a foyer but not for commercial ventures where they are selling a product such as a book. Sara volunteered to review our current policies. We should do this once a year.
7. A potential demolition request was discussed for 388 West Winchester. Mary Ann and the community development office will try to educate the owner to preserve this well preserved bungalow in the southwest section of Murray. Board members agreed that we should take photos. Syanna wondered if we could go through a property site form to make sure we are gathering basic history information. Ian suggested gathering a GPS coordinate so that future generations could identify exactly where it stood in the future. Mary Ann suggested we do an ILS survey which could provide good history and may be a tool to encourage preservation through a national register nomination and use of tax credits for adaptive reuse.
8. Sage Fitch from the historic residential district has asked if we could design and install historic street signs and possibly lighting. Board members liked that idea. Mary Ann will check with the street department for feasibility and costs.
9. Brittany shared her ideas for a children's history storybook. She suggested it be limited to 10 pages with 5 topics that cover two pages each. She looked at the school curriculum for this age group. She thought it could be patterned after "choose your own adventure book." They could choose a section and complete those activities or move through it chronologically. Syanna liked the idea of bouncing around the various activities depending on their interest. Brittany suggested a short paragraph or story with the activity wrapped around it. Topics could include early Murray/pioneer heritage (world map), smelter story (hidden pictures), city development, transition of farms to parks development (math), and a writing activity at the end on what they think Murray will be like in the future. Brittany will write up the actual story for next month with potential activities for each topic. Mary Ann will distribute this to board members with the agenda if Brittany has it done by then.
10. Reed asked if they were doing a boards dinner with a play. Mary Ann said they are exploring the idea of doing a dinner at the Doty Center at IMC and then giving tickets to Camelot for those who would like to attend.