

Fairhope Historic Preservation Committee

Monthly Meeting Notes

August 17, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Fairhope History Museum

Attendance: Gary Gover, Mara Hunter, Skip Jones, museum liaison Gabriel Gold-Vukson (Museum Liaison). Guest: Hannah Jane Hill

Not Present: Jay Robinson

Call to order: Gary Gover, 9:31

Old Business

- 1) Introduce special guest and prospective member Hannah Jane Hill.
- 2) Approve April meeting minutes (see attached).
- 3) Renew Appointments to the Committee.
- 4) Updates on old business:

- a) Lewis House: Gary Gover attended the Planning meeting. The proposed plan for 309 Ingleside did not include or reference the historic property. GG presented the historic nature of the property advocating its preservation. The developers stated that it would cost 40-100 thousand dollars to relocate the building, and at that cost it was not feasible for the project to do that. Corey M. and developer subsequently discussed they would do something to memorialize the building. The planning commission and staff agreed to make that a condition for approval. At the city council meeting that occurred shortly thereafter, a community member advocated preservation. The city council voted to approve preliminary approval of the planned project provided an appropriate historic memorial was put in place.
 - i) Question: If the house is slated for demolition, could an agreement with the developers be reached that would allow descendants to salvage any valuable or sentimental architectural details, such as a fireplace mantle? And after that, could materials of the house be made available to anyone from the community interested in salvaging wood, etc. for renovating other historic properties?
 - Response: SJ will communicate with the developers.
 - ii) Question: \$40-100 thousand seems not such a large cost for a project of that scale, also a cost that could be offset, and/or met with a go fund me campaign. Can the house physically be moved?
 - Response: SJ agrees to investigate. [postscript from SJ: "Gabe and I visited the Lewis house yesterday to get an idea of the type of construction and the general feasibility of moving it. The house is frame construction on piers with a large, u-shaped porch on the front that is built on a concrete slab. It appears to have been added after the house was built. There is a double central brick fireplace with a single chimney and another brick chimney at the rear of the original structure that probably vented a heater. There appears to have been two or three additions to the

rear of the original house. Moving the house would involve demolishing the front porch and slab, demolishing the two fireplaces and chimneys, removing the rear additions and, due to the dimensions of the original house, cutting it in half to enable it to be moved on the adjacent streets. Cutting it in half would involve removing most of the metal roof. It would appear that right-of-way and utility infrastructure can be dealt with, so the house could be moved to a relatively near-by site. A careful assessment of the cost of moving and reconstruction should be undertaken before decisions are made.”].

b) the Summit Inn: Skip will connect with the owner to determine whether our committee can help with that process.

c) The May Event was a success. Two speakers from the Alabama Historic Commission presented a slide show at the Baldwin County Campus St. James facility to an audience of 20-30 people. Topics included what AHC does, CLGs, tax breaks for small businesses, non-profits, design review processes, and so on.

New Business

5) Close Encounters of the Third Kind (1977) - House slated for sale.

6) The Land Use Plan. Historic Preservation is discussed pp. 49-53. Discuss how to promote Historic Preservation, what activities we can organize that gel with the plan.

7) Set provisional agenda and activities for AY 2022-2023.

a) Expand membership. Hannah will help.

b) Gary will speak with mayor this afternoon.

c) K-1 center will be an incubator, will become part of a program known as hatch. Last survey of K-1 in historic district, on national register. Once had banner and shield. Need to ensure facade is respected.

8) Wrap-up.

Potential Events

- K-1 History
- African American History
- Land Use Plan
- History Day: Highschool

Meeting Ended 10:32