

Fairhope Historic Preservation Committee
Monthly Meeting Notes (approved 10/12/22)
September 14, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Fairhope History Museum

Attendance: Gary Gover, Mara Hunter, Skip Jones, museum liaison Gabriel Gold-Vukson (Museum Liaison). Guest: Amy Molyneux, Holly Palughi

Not Present: Jay Robinson, Andrew Ousley

Call to order: Gary Gover, 9:31

Old Business

1) Approve August Minutes

2) Introduce new/prospective members and guests

Amy Ford Molyneux—Worked for the United States government, has a love for historic preservation. Sees a lot being lost;

Holly Palughi—4 years of architecture school, worked on multiple preservation projects at state and local levels.

3) Lewis House / 309 Ingleside - SJ's son in law is developer of the property. Developer has agreed to create a memorial on the site. If the house can be moved, the developer supports it. The original house is a long 2 rooms with a third room to the side (t-shape). The porch surrounding it may be original, but over time the porch was built on a slab. To move it some deconstruction will take time. 2 brick chimneys would need to be taken down. Spoke with Corey Martin who believes he can identify a place for the house to go. Expenses include moving and establishing on new foundation [\$100,000]

- Need a 501 c3 for historic preservation.
- Our bank account could pay to have a 501 c3 formed.
- Skip will look into the 501 c3.

4) Close Encounters House - a 4,600 member nation-wide group is interested in *exploring* preserving the house. Read the email from Gregg Martini. Will contact Mary Riser [Follow up: Film Festival interested in participating in any initiatives but not able to sponsor any initiatives for the house]. House address 2250 state highway 181. [Follow up: Confirmed with Planning Department that the house is at 22148 State Hwy 181 and no building plans have been submitted. Subsequently contacted Kleban to introduce Close Encounters group; MK draft and GG approved, see attached].

5) Make decisions about which events and set some targets:

Potential events discussed last meeting

- K-1 History --- tie into city activity
- African American History --- tie into Lewis House
- Land Use Plan --- go to the October 3 and 4th meetings.
- History Day Student Contest --- [Alabama Humanities Foundation Date is March 3, so our deadline must be before that. Student submissions must go into our committee with a January deadline.](#)

Other Event Ideas proposed:

- Art Walk
- House Tours
- Close Encounters / Cinematic History / Team up with Fairhope Film Festival

[Follow up: contacted city about spending FHPC money toward the contest. City Treasurer saw no obstacles, but asked for confirmation from city clerk. Still waiting on that confirmation].

Meeting Ended: Gary Gover 10:32

Appendix A- Kleban Correspondence

Dear Mr. Kleban,

The Fairhope Historical Preservation Committee (FHPC) has been contacted by a representative of a 4,600 member Close Encounters facebook group after they learned of your involvement in rezoning the parcel at 22148 State Hwy 181. As you undoubtedly know, the house on that property was used in the filming of Close Encounters. Now we are learning that the house is extraordinarily cinematically and culturally important such that people travel from across the country to view it as well as other Close Encounters filming sites in Mobile. Further, many residents of Mobile and Baldwin counties have fond memories associated with this property and, like the Close Encounters group, would be pleased to see the house preserved or marked in some fashion.

We understand you have not yet submitted plans regarding the property, and subsequently, opportunity exists for productive conversation about preservation. We also understand that the Close Encounters group has a range of ideas about what preservation might look like, from incorporating the house into the planned development, to moving the house, to salvaging artifacts from the house should their ideal preferences not be achievable.

Please expect a member of the Close Encounters group may soon contact you. Meanwhile, our committee will be grateful to learn your thoughts about preserving the house.

Sincerely,
Mara Hunter, Secretary FHPC

cc: Gary Gover, Interim Chair FHPC