

Historical Museum volunteers (including Commission members) will enjoy a volunteer appreciation event in recognition of their service to the Museum and the City from 5 to 6:30 PM in the Library meeting room before the start of the Commission meeting at 6:30. No Commission business items will be discussed and no action will be taken.

Louisville Historical Commission Agenda

July 18, 2018

**Louisville Public Library Meeting Room
951 Spruce Street
6:30 PM**

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of agenda
- IV. Public comments
- V. Approval of May 16, 2018 regular meeting minutes – *see attached draft*
- VI. Report from the Museum Coordinator
 - A. Approval of Deeds of Gifts from donors
 - B. Advice sought on donations of other artifacts being offered
 - C. Museum Coordinator’s written report – *see attached memo*
 - D. Updates and discussion on recent developments relating to Museum campus plans and funding, including:
 - i. 2018 citizen survey process and the questions about the Museum’s needed upgrades
 - ii. Status report on construction design work and RFP for structural work to be done based on the Historic Structure Assessments this year

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- iii. Update on capital improvement requests for the Museum & consideration of whether any additional improvements could potentially be requested to be made to the existing buildings prior to the construction of a new building on the campus
- iv. Update on operational requests for the Museum
- VII. Labor Day – Monday, Sept. 3rd
 - A. Labor Day Parade Planning with the Foundation
 - B. Request for Commission members to be on hand at the Museum from 12-2 PM to help talk with visitors coming in after the Parade
- VIII. Chairperson’s Report
 - IX. Pioneer Award: Subcommittee to present background information on the nominations; nominations to be narrowed to two. Selection of recipient to take place at the September meeting.
 - X. Items of common interest with the Historic Preservation Commission: reports from HPC and HC liaison to HPC
 - XI. Louisville History Foundation update
 - XII. Commission comments & discussion items for next meeting
 - XIII. Close meeting & adjourn

Louisville Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

***May 16, 2018
Louisville Public Library Meeting Room
951 Spruce Street
6:30 PM***

- I. **Call to order:** Commission chair Dan Mellish called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.
- II. **Roll Call - Commission Members Present:** Dan Mellish, Paula Elrod, Gordon Madonna, Keith Keller, Jon Ferris, and Joe Teasdale

Commission Members Absent: Betty Scarpella and Dave Hooley

City Representatives Present:

Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator

Becky Campbell, Interim Director of Library & Museum Services

Other Individuals Present:

Chuck Thomas, Historic Preservation Commission liaison

- III. **Approval of agenda:** Members approved the agenda.
- IV. **Public comments:** None.
- V. **Approval of March 7, 2018 regular meeting minutes:** Minutes were approved.
- VI. **Report from the Museum Coordinator:**

A. Approval of Deeds of Gifts from donors - The Commission approved the following 10 donations:

1. Ricky Madonna Pickett: original and digitized photos and documents relating to the family of her father, Wilbur Madonna.
2. Lauren Trice: two original windows from the Hecla Mine "Casino" building in Louisville that was demolished recently.
3. David Ferguson: Metal trade token giving 5 cents off and inscribed with the initials "E.J.F." from a Louisville business in the early 1900s.

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4. Jeanine Ardourel: items relating to the Fabrizio family of Louisville, including Grace Fabrizio Ardourel's photo album and digital images of family photos.
5. Deborah Fahey: two digital images from about 1986 showing the large cottonwood tree at Cottonwood Park and one showing Harper Lake.
6. Lois Tesone: Papers and photos relating to the Louisville Society of Italian Americans. She is a former president of the organization.
7. Kelly Rippeth: photos and books that belonged to longtime teacher Lydia Morgan and the Morgan family. Some of the books are in Welsh.
8. Ed Domenico: historic photos relating to Louisville, with most of them showing school classes.
9. Jim Lastoka: digital image of a historic postcard photo showing the Rex #1 Mine in Louisville.
10. Barbara Leggate: digital scans of photos showing the large cottonwood tree at Cottonwood Park in the 1980s.

B. Advice sought on donations of other artifacts being offered: No advice sought.

C. Museum Coordinator's written report: Bridget informed the Commission that part-time Museum Technician Tom Mensik is leaving to take a full-time position at the Denver Firefighters Museum. Also, at the May Art Walk on the topic of "Lost Louisville" at the Museum, the Historic Preservation Commission provided information about landmarking and gave out prizes that included a set of coasters focusing on Louisville history.

D. Updates on recent developments relating to Museum campus plans and funding:

- i. **City Council discussion/direction regarding funding options, fundraising for a new building, and the feasibility study:** On May 15th, the City Council heard presentations from Dan, Bridget, and Ray (the consultant hired for a feasibility study on a capital campaign) on options for funding for the new Museum building. Bridget presented a memo setting out five possible courses of action to help fund the Museum. The Council discussed the options. At this time the Council decided to take no action, and wait for the citizen survey coming out in the summer with questions asking citizens concerning the Museum and funding for a new building. Possible options

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the City Council discussed and focused on to fund the building were a bond issue or regular property tax increase.

The Commission discussed ways to inform and educate the community about the needs of the Museum and the purposes of the addition. It was noted that the History Foundation recently started the Love Louisville campaign, which is a mail and social media campaign asking residents what they love about Louisville and inviting them to become members of the Museum & Foundation. Also, the Commission discussed the possibility of contacting a local public relations firm to ask for help on a pro bono basis with community engagement. Joe Teasdale volunteered to contact public relation firms with respect to this idea.

- ii. **Status report on RFP for structural work based to be done based on the Historic Structure Assessments:** There is a budget of about sixty thousand dollars in the City's budget for structural work on the Tomeo house this year. Bret Johnson Architecture was approved to make the design documents needed for the building before the actual work can be started. Also, the uneven floor boards in the Tomeo house are going to be replaced, and the wood surrounding the foundation will be replaced with TREX or similar decking-style material to make the area more functional and safer during outdoor programs and for schoolchildren during tours.
- iii. **Update on capital improvement & operational requests for the Museum:** Capital improvements budget requests have been submitted to the City and operational budget requests are to be submitted in June.

VII. **Formal request from the Commission to the City for two new part-time Museum positions to be funded from Museum operational moneys from the Historic Preservation Fund for the City's two-year operational budget in 2019 and 2020:** The City asked the Commission to make a formal request for two, twenty-five hour a week new part-time positions at the Museum. It is envisioned that they would be funded from the Historic Preservation Tax funds. The Commission approved making this a formal request.

VIII. **Taste of Louisville – Saturday, June 2nd – Commission members to help with visitors at the Museum, 10-12:30 or 12:30-3:** Keith, Joe, and Chuck volunteered to help with visitors during the Taste of Louisville.

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- IX. Labor Day Parade Planning with Foundation (Labor Day is Sept. 3rd):** The Foundation at this time does not have any idea for the parade, but does want to work with the Commission on the float. Some suggestions that were provided were using Tammy Lastoka's truck, and connecting it with the Love Louisville Campaign.
- X. Reschedule of November meeting previously set for Wednesday, Nov. 21 (the evening before Thanksgiving); proposed new date is Wednesday, Nov.28:** The Commission approved moving the November meeting date to the 28th.
- XI. Chairperson's Report:** No report
- XII. Pioneer Award: Discussion of nominations:** The Commission discussed possible candidates for nomination for the award. The Commission will further discuss nominees at the next meeting.
- XIII. Items of common interest with the Historic Preservation Commission – reports from HPC and HC liaison to HPC:** Chuck reported there was a HPC meeting in April and no meeting in May. On Saturday the 19th, there will be a landmark ceremony. Also, there was discussion on the Center for the Arts building and the work with separating it from the locker room.
- XIV. Louisville History Foundation update:** The Foundation is doing the Love Louisville Campaign, and awaiting feedback to do a second campaign. The Foundation discussed doing an event in the summer to raise awareness about the Museum and its services.
- XV. Commission comments & discussion items for next meeting:** None
- XVI. Close meeting & adjourn:** The LHC meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2018.

Memorandum

To: Historical Commission
From: Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator
Date: July 11, 2018
Re: Museum Coordinator's Report

The July First Friday Art Walk, which at the Museum featured the topic of "Soda Parlor History," drew 297 visitors to the Museum last Friday, while the one in June on the topic of the Louisville Society of Italian Americans resulted in 185 visitors to the Museum. The topic for the First Friday Art Walk at the Museum in August will be Lafayette history. Summer walking tours are also underway and have been well-received.

In a collaboration between the Museum Division of our department and the Open Space Division of the Parks & Recreation Dept., I led a tour from Harper Lake to the Matchless Mine site last night. People RSVP'd early and the quota of about 20 people was met quickly. The Open Space staff and I coordinated with each other and I plan to give the tour again in late August to 20 additional people who are on the waiting list.

Gigi Yang has joined the Museum staff as the Museum Technician and Hannah Gonzales is this year's Oral History Intern. They join Jason Hogstad, who is the Visitor Services Representative this year, and I'm very happy to have the opportunity to work with all of them on our services and programs at the Museum. Lauren Trice, who worked in the Planning Department on historic preservation issues, recently left her position and moved away. A new staff member will be hired in her position to work on historic preservation in Louisville.

PDFs of historical building reports that I've written for the City are in the process of being put on the City website so that they will be more publicly accessible. Also, the City is starting to show on Channel 8 the ten oral history interviews that were put on YouTube earlier this year.

Paying memberships with the Museum and the Louisville History Foundation now total 850. These include 83 new paying memberships received so far this year, many of them as a result of the Foundation's "Love Louisville" mailing.

Museum Visitors Report (these statistics represent visits to the Museum itself, and not inquiries that come in by email or phone): May visitors: 405; June visitors: 413; YTD: 1,634.