

MINUTES
Historic Commission Minutes
July 14, 2020
City Park

Present: April Bishop, Alice Hawk, Janet O’Neal, Barbara Holzmark, Clara Van Draska, Dan Throckmorton and Council Liaison Debra Filla and Staff Liaison Holly York. Guests from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Denise Bullock and Janet Alley.

April Bishop called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.

Introductions

Clara Van Draska and April Bishop were appointed in the spring. The group introduced themselves.

Minutes

Alice Hawk moved and Dan Throckmorton seconded the motion for approval of the minutes from the March 12, 2019 meeting of the Historic Commission. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Finance Report

Alice reported that the Historic Commission has \$3,400 in the budget, which is a line item within the Leawood Foundation monies held by the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

Old Business

The dedication of the historic plaque at the Leawood Shops at Somerset & Lee Boulevard took place on May, 9, 2019. It was a big success with the original and current owners in attendance.

Historic Plaques

8000 Lee Building

This is the original Kroh Brothers office in Kansas. Dan reported that the current owners of the building are unwilling to work with the City. The group agreed to table the pursuit of installation of this plaque for a few years.

Linwood Pioneer Cemetery

April suggested placement of a plaque at the Linwood Pioneer Cemetery. The DAR has worked hard to clean up the cemetery and repaired headstones. They still have work to be done. Ranchmart is replacing the paved area between the cemetery and 95th Street with grass. The DAR is also working on research of the inhabitants of the cemetery and the Linwood area. After the reopening of events following the pandemic the group will move forward with this installation. This will be a great opportunity to hold educational presentations and bring attention to ongoing efforts to maintain the cemetery.

Interviews

Janet O’Neal and Charles Lusk were working on oral history interviews from former students of the Oxford Schoolhouse. April and Clara Van Draska offered to help in this endeavor.
Historic Oxford Schoolhouse

Staff Liaison Holly York updated the group about the Covid-19 preventative measures implemented at the Historic Oxford Schoolhouse which includes limited seating, availability of hand sanitizer and masks, along with disinfecting touched surfaces. The Oxford Docent Intern this summer is Brenna Pritchard, who is pursuing her Doctorate in History at the University of Kansas.

New Business

Linwood Cemetery Update

Denise Bullock and Janet Alley, local chapter representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution spoke about their work and vision for the Linwood Pioneer Cemetery located in the Ranch Mart Shopping Center. With the cooperation of JCMRE and the Regnier family, six area DAR chapters chose the beautification and preservation of the cemetery as their DAR National Day of Service project on October 11 and 12 of 2019. The Linwood Pioneer Cemetery project won the NSDAR National Day of Service Award out of 204 entries across the country.

But there is still so much work to be done. The organization would like to see a new entrance to the cemetery, repaired headstones, a redeveloped grassy area, and education center in the next few years. Denise said they need help with ground maintenance including removing trees and buffalo grass. It was suggested that the DAR look into partnering with the Lion's Club, garden club, Boy Scouts, or ask for consultation from Leawood Parks and Recreation staff. Council Liaison Deb Filla suggested that the DAR create a master plan to present to potential partner organizations. April and Clara suggested generating interest by publishing articles about the project.

DAR researchers have found some fascinating stories about pioneers interred there as well as the pioneers of the Linwood area, but there is so much missing information. Denise shared one story about James Tennison.

April also suggested that Brenna Pritchard might be able to help the DAR with research about the Linwood Pioneer Cemetery. Holly will connect Brenna and Denise.

Memorial for Charles Lusk

The Commission discussed possible memorial options for Charles Lusk including a bench at either the future park at 96th and Lee Blvd or the Linwood Pioneer Cemetery or possibly a planted tree and plaque at the cemetery. Charles was also a member of the Leawood Foundation and they would be interested in partnering with the Historic Commission. Clara will speak to Mary Anne Lusk on her thoughts of the best way to honor Charles.

JCKHF

April attends the Johnson County Heritage Foundation meetings once a month and asked the group if anyone else would like to attend those meeting too. Barbara expressed interest and April will send her a meeting invitation.

96th and Lee Status

Council Liaison Filla reported that the cell phone tower has been removed from the site. There is a flourishing community garden. A new 4 bay fire station will replace the old station on the south portion of the property, Plans for Fire Station 1 have not been approved and plans for the

remaining parkland have not begun. Due to deed restrictions the HOA needs to approve the area as a park. The need for the former City Hall to move within the site property has not yet been determined.

Meetings

The group decided to continue quarterly meetings at 4:30pm, but switch to the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 15 at 4:30pm at the future park at 96th and Lee Blvd.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41pm

Submitted by: Holly York, Cultural Arts Supervisor