

Minutes
Union County Historic Preservation Commission
January 5, 2010

The Union County Historic Preservation Commission met at 3:30 on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 in the Heritage Room at the historic Union County Courthouse, Monroe, North Carolina.

Present: Virginia Bjorlin, Al Diehl, Sis Dillon, Jerry Surratt, Brad Hudson, Carolyn Funderburk,

Margaret Bivens

Absent: Danny Stegall, Charles Williams

Also Present: Mary Lou Gamble, John Dickerson

Mr. Dickerson gave a presentation about the city's plans for developing a park on the west side of the Piedmont Buggy Factory. The owner of the Piedmont Buggy Factory, Mark Nettles, is still hoping to restore the building. The park would close some of Meadow Street and possibly include some residential and office space around the mill. Mr. Dickerson requested that the historic commission send a letter of encouragement to the Monroe City Manager concerning the project.

Approval of Minutes

The Historic Preservation Commission did not meet in December. Mrs. Bjorlin asked if there were any questions or comments about the November minutes. Mrs. Hudson motioned to approve the November minutes. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

Financial Report

Mrs. Bjorlin asked the commission members to review the financial report. The report was approved and will be filed with the minutes.

Unfinished Business

Mrs. Bjorlin reported that the William Houston House on Goldmine Road at Dead Man's Curve will possibly be demolished sometime in January. The fire department plans to burn it, but a date has not been set. *The Enquirer Journal* will feature an article about the property.

Regarding the Stallings Methodist Church, Mrs. Bjorlin said that the Survey and Research Report has been returned from Archives and will be sent to the Union County Legal Department for review. The Town of Stallings has requested that Union County Commissioners schedule a public hearing for the designation. Mrs. Bjorlin said that Archives commented that better pictures were needed, but she felt that the ones submitted should be adequate.

New Business

Mrs. Bjorlin stated the Union County Historical Society is planning a program about the goldmines located in the western part of Union County. Mr. Bill Howie, who is very knowledgeable about the goldmines in the area, will do the program. Mrs. Bjorlin is hoping to get publicity to the residents in the western part of the county so they can become acquainted with the history of the goldmines and learn more about the area goldmines. Mr. Howie presently conducts tours of the largest mine, the Howie Goldmine. The meeting will be held in the Griffin Room at the Union County Public Library at 2:30 on January 31.

Mrs. Bjorlin also mentioned that the League of Women Voters will have a program regarding the census at the Old National Guard Armory Community Center. The meeting will be January 12 at 6:30 at the Armory. Susan S. Webster, who is directing the census canvas in Union County, will do the program.

Mrs. Bjorlin referred to the December minutes concerning the email she had received from Raleigh concerning the Guidelines for NC Certified Local Government Programs handbook. These guidelines require that two or more members attend at least two workshops per year about the function of commissions. Mrs. Bjorlin will let the commission members know the dates of these workshops.

Mrs. Bjorlin referred to a picture that was featured in *The Enquirer Journal* of Patricia Poland of the Union County Public Library and Mr. Tony Way. A list of ten black Confederate pensioners in Union County has been found. Mrs. Bjorlin read the list to the commission members. A granite monument has been requested to honor these men with an *asterick* by the one name indicating that he was a freeman. Mrs. Bjorlin read the names of the pensioners and gave copies to commission members. The request will be presented to the Union County Commissioners on February 14 for approval. If recommended, Barry Wyatt, Facilities Director, will present an Application of Certificate of Appropriateness to the Historic Preservation Commission. Mrs. Poland has suggested that it be placed in front of the existing Confederate Monument at ground level. Dr. Surratt pointed out that the existing Confederate Monument represents **all** who served with no racial boundaries. Mrs. Bjorlin will research what other counties may have done this. Mrs. Dillon suggested a display be designed for the future museum rather than erecting a monument.

Mrs. Bjorlin mentioned that she had talked to Gina Williams, a cousin of Robert Williams, who is interested in designating the remains of the Winchester School. There is a gymnasium and one classroom remaining, but, she is not sure who owns the property at this time.

January 5, 2010

Mrs Bivens mentioned that they are still trying to save the Marshville Baptist Church. Sidney Halma made a visit to evaluate the historic significance of the building and to express an opinion about preserving it. The Marshville Town Council still does not support purchasing the property. Mrs. Bivens said that some people are anxious to save it.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be February 2nd at 3:30 in the Heritage Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Bjorlin

January 5, 2010