

HERITAGE PRESERVATION, INC.
Minutes of Meeting, 6-26-2017

Those present: Chuck Hyde, Betty Champion, Lee Freeman, Brett Wood, Wayne Williams, Jerry Dowd, Mary Peck, John VanSandt, Jay Hillis (guest), Billy Warren

1. Billy Warren circulated a thank-you note from Board member Hester Cope in response to the donation of a book to the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library in memory of her late husband, David, by the Board of Heritage Preservation, Inc.
2. Lee Freeman noted that Nitrate #2 Hospital (item #12 in the minutes of the 5-22-2017) should be Air Nitrate #2 Hospital. With that correction, Chuck Hyde made the motion that the minutes be approved. Wayne Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Billy Warren presented this financial report:

a. Checking Account Balance	\$1,062.44
b. Forks of Cypress Account Balance	\$3,234.78

John VanSandt made the motion that the report be approved. Betty Champion seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Dick Jordan reported that:
 - a. The City Council recently approved the rezoning of property on the westernmost end of Irvine Avenue, paving the way for the development of an apartment complex there. The next step for the developer is to seek approval by the Planning Commission.
 - b. A handsome office building is being constructed on the southwest corner of Poplar and Tennessee Streets.
 - c. Buildings near the Gunrunner Boutique Hotel on East Tennessee Street are being enhanced by the addition of classic-style façade.
 - d. The southeast section of downtown Florence is being revitalized through new businesses (e.g., Singin' River Brewery, Singin' River Live, Studio 23) and the relocation of existing businesses such as Keystone Business Centre. The buildings that house these businesses are being restored and updated.
5. Lee Freeman reported that the Lauderdale County Cemetery Rehabilitation Authority (LCCRA) does not work in cemeteries during the summer months. When work resumes in the fall, the African-American Hough Family cemetery in St. Florian will be the next project.
6. Lee Freeman distributed copies of the June, 2017, issue of *Kidsville News*.

7. Billy Warren praised Dr. David Curott on the publication of his new book, *More Signs of the Past, Book 2*.
8. Billy Warren complimented the June 12 unveiling of the historic marker commemorating the site of the original Coffee High School building on at the intersection of Hermitage Drive and Walnut Street. He distributed the following:
 - a. Copies of the printed program that was distributed at the unveiling, and
 - b. Copies of an article about the then-new Coffee High School building that appeared in the November 7, 1918, *Florence Herald*.

He circulated a brass ornament depicting the original Coffee High School building; the ornament was developed under the aegis of a group of Coffee High alumni.

9. There was a discussion regarding the fairly new concept known as Air B&B (i.e. houses, portions of houses, carriage houses, pool houses) rented as Bed and Breakfasts entirely through the internet, with little or no contact between the owner/host and the guest(s).

Billy Warren stated that, within historic districts, the same ordinance applies that applies to any B&B: the owner of the property must reside there; otherwise, the property is a hotel – and hotels are not allowed in residential historic districts.

10. Billy Warren distributed copies of the five-page spread entitled “Discover the Soul of the Shoals” which appeared in the July-August, 2017, issue of *Cooking with Paula Deen* magazine. It’s highly complimentary of Florence and the Shoals, one of many such articles that are appearing in various media – print, broadcast and digital – thanks, in large part to the excellent work of the staff of the Florence-Lauderdale Tourism Bureau.
11. Billy Warren reported that a check in the amount of \$100.00 has been sent, per the HPI Board’s direction, to the Colbert County Landmarks Foundation toward the erection of a World War I monument in Sheffield’s Oakwood Cemetery.
12. Because of time constraints, there wasn’t a discussion regarding the possibility of creating a list of local artisans/craftspeople. It will take place at future meetings of the HPI Board.