

**HERITAGE PRESERVATION, INC.**  
**Minutes of Meeting, 10-23-2017**

Those present: Betty Champion, Chuck Hyde, Judy Tiffin, Hester Cope, Lee Freeman, Mary Peck, John VanSandt, Angela Voigt (guest), Wayne Williams, Jerry Dowd, Teryl Shields, Billy Warren

1. Chuck Hyde made the motion that the minutes of the 9-25-2017 meeting be approved. Lee Freeman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. Billy Warren presented this financial report:

a. Checking Account Balance	\$1,142.44
b. Forks of Cypress Account Balance	\$3,234.78

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

3. In the absence of Dick Jordan, there was no report on current capital projects of the City of Florence. It was noted that City officials have recently approved the expansion of the streetscape project on East Tennessee Street from its current terminus at Poplar Street to the intersection of East Tennessee Street and Dr. Hicks Boulevard. If funds permit, there is a possibility that streetscaping will also be added from East Tennessee Street at Wood Avenue to East College Street.
4. Chuck Hyde reported that the new owner of the commercial building at 224 East College Street are moving forward with approved plans to restore the building. It is slated to become the new home of Geronimo Fitness. Everyone present at today's meeting expressed great pleasure over this announcement, especially because it's yet another building in a fairly long list of buildings in that section of downtown Florence to be restored.
5. Billy Warren distributed copies of the letter which he wrote, per the Board's direction, to the owner of the Victorian cottage at 601 East Tombigbee Street. In the letter, he thanked the owner for the detailed restoration of the cottage that is currently underway.
6. Lee Freeman distributed copies of the October, 2017, issue of *Kidsville News*.
7. Billy Warren distributed copies of an article from the October 6, 2017, issue of the *Times-Daily* entitled "Shady Court being brought back to life." John VanSandt and Angela Voigt shared interesting details of their work thus far in the restoration of the 18 separate buildings that comprise Shady Court. They plan to reopen the complex of

buildings as a tourist court, which was its original use. Everyone present at today's meeting expressed excitement over the project and extended wishes for great success to John and Angela.

8. There was a discussion about the great value of the old Sanborn Fire Maps, especially to anyone interested in local history and/or the restoration of commercial buildings in downtown Florence. These maps were a forerunner of today's computerized planometric maps since they showed the actual configuration of buildings. The Florence-Lauderdale Public Library has, in the recent past, subscribed to access the Sanborn Maps through the University of Alabama's digital collection of them. Lee Freeman agreed to find out the subscription cost and report it to the HPI Board at its November meeting.
9. Billy Warren reminded everyone that it's time to begin planning for the selection of recipients of HPI's Capital Award. He also reminded everyone that these are the categories for possible selection, though we do not necessarily select a recipient of each category in a given year:
  - a. Preservation/restoration of a residential structure
  - b. Preservation/restoration of a commercial structure
  - c. Preservation/restoration of a governmental or educational structure
  - d. A preservation/restoration project by a person younger than 21
  - e. An individual who is publicly noted for the active promotion of preservation/restoration of structures, sites and documents

Billy stated that we usually make our selections no later than the December meeting of the HPI Board.

10. There was a brief discussion regarding a venue for HPI's annual meeting which is always held in the afternoon of the third Sunday in January. This will be discussed further at our November meeting.
11. Here are the notes regarding the possibility of HPI's creating a list of outstanding local craftspersons – plasterers, masons, carpenters, upholsterers, painters, tree trimmers, etc.:
  - a. The Board agreed on these guiding principles:
    - (1) We must determine the criteria for listing a person.
    - (2) We must include a disclaimer that the list is not an unequivocal guarantee of the quality of a person's work.
    - (3) The list must include the recommendation that anyone using the list check an individual craftsperson's references before hiring him/her.
  - b. These are the advantages of creating such a list:
    - (1) The novice who has, at best, limited experience in dealing with craftspersons will have a sense of security that the person he/she is considering is highly-skilled and knowledgeable.

- (2) The list will show everyone that the Shoals area does, indeed, have highly talented craftspersons.
  - (3) Craftspersons on the list will have a committed focus on the architecture of the Shoals.
  - (4) The list will reveal that there are local craftspersons with highly-specialized traditional skills such as plastering and *faux* painting.
- c. It was suggested that:
- (1) In order to be added to the list, the craftsperson must have at least three (3) written recommendations from people who have contracted with him/her and been satisfied with the work performed.
  - (2) To be removed from the list, there must be at least three (3) specific complaints by people who have been displeased with the work performed.

At today's meeting, Board members remained unsettled on the thorny issue brought out in item #'s 1 and 2 under #11.c. Billy Warren agreed to talk with a local attorney to get a legal opinion on the two issues. Billy will share his findings at the November meeting of the HPI Board.