

**HERITAGE PRESERVATION, INC.**  
**Minutes of Meeting, 9-25-2017**

Those present: Betty Champion, Lee Freeman, Chuck Hyde, John VanSandt, Dick Jordan, Angela Voigt (guest), Brett Wood, Carolyn Waterman, Wayne Williams, Billy Warren

1. Carolyn Waterman made the motion that the minutes of the 8-28-2017 meeting be approved. Chuck Hyde seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Billy Warren presented this financial report:

a. Checking Account Balance	\$1,102.44
b. Forks of Cypress Account Balance	\$3,234.78

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

3. Dick Jordan made this report:
  - a. Two fine buildings on North Court Street (202 and 210 North Court) are being restored by the owner of both buildings. The building at 202 was formerly the home of the First National Bank; the limestone columns that graced the front of the building still exist behind the outer façade that was added in the 1950's! These fine columns will reappear during the restoration process.

The building at 210 was formerly Otto Speake Menswear and, prior to that, it was the location of Mr. W.A. Shepard's grocery store. The freight elevator inside the building is still intact.

- b. The University of North Alabama is purchasing all of the buildings and property in a ¼-block area bounded on the south by West Tombigbee Street and on the west by North Pine Street. Alleyways are situated on both the north and east sides of the property.
4. Lee Freeman reported that the autumn work by the Lauderdale County Cemetery Preservation and Rehabilitation Authority (LCCPRA) in the Hough family cemetery in St. Florian will begin when cooler weather comes.
5. Carolyn Waterman reported that the Articles of Incorporation for the Shoals Storytelling Festival Board of Directors have been duly filed with the appropriate governmental offices. She stated that the next step is the filing of an application to secure 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit entity. Great work, Carolyn!

6. Following a discussion, Dick Jordan made the motion that Billy Warren write a letter to Dr. Ken Kitts, president of the University of North Alabama, in behalf of the Board of Directors of Heritage Preservation, Inc. (HPI) if/when the University announces the creation of a new Master Plan. Betty Champion seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
7. Chuck Hyde reported that the Florence Historical Board has received its first request for approval of proposed exterior changes to a structure in McFarland Heights, Florence's newest Historic District.
8. Billy Warren distributed copies of a document that itemizes the historic preservation activities in which he has been engaged from April, 2017, through August, 2017.
9. Lee Freeman distributed copies of the September, 2017, issue of *Kidsville News*.
10. John VanSandt and Angela Voigt made a presentation on a project in which both of them are involved: the restoration of 18 small buildings in the former Shady Court Tourist Court in Sheffield, a forerunner of the "motel" concept. The standard size of almost all 18 buildings is 180 square feet. (One building at the site houses an old streetcar which ran from Sheffield to Florence and Tuscumbia. Because it's been inside a building for years, it's in remarkably good condition.) John and Angela plan to reopen the buildings for actual use as a tourist court. Everyone present at today's meeting responded enthusiastically to the presentation with high praise for John and Angela and asked to be kept informed as the project moves forward.
11. Billy Warren distributed and briefly reviewed copies of the following handouts:
  - a. An article from the 9-21-2017 issue of the *Times-Daily* entitled "College towns feel pinch from short-term rentals." It reveals that the Airbnb movement is affecting towns and cities (especially college towns and cities) across America. Billy complimented Gary Williamson, Head of Florence's Building Department, who carefully monitors Historic Districts to make sure that owners of properties within such Districts live in the house in which they operated a B&B – whether it's a "regular" B&B or an Airbnb.
  - b. Photographs of the buildings at 202 and 210 North Court Street which are being restored by their owner. (See item #3.a above.)
  - c. Photograph of a charming Victorian cottage on the corner of North Cherry and East Tombigbee Streets
12. Here are the notes (with a few suggestions [see 12.c below] made at today's meeting) regarding the possibility of HPI's creating a list of outstanding local craftspersons – plasterers, masons, carpenters, upholsterers, painters, 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 at today's meeting 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.

Further discussion of this important topic will take place at the October meeting.