

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CLEVELAND HERITAGE COMMISSION

February 9, 2021

**Members present:** Jonett Valentine, Cetin Oguz, Corinne Casanova, Judy Wilson, Mickey Thompson, Judy Dilworth, Emily Jones, Lynn Shurden, Jordan Goins

**Ex-Officio members present:** Kenneth Taylor, John White Valentine, Billy Trotter, Katie Portner, Connie McClellan

Chair Lynn Shurden called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

After review of the minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting, Jonett Valentine made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Emily Jones seconded the motion. The vote was "aye" with no opposition.

**Old Business**

The updated logo was not available for approval. Cetin Oguz will send an email to all members when he receives the update from the designer.

**New Business**

Brian and Marie Ware of Ware Wine and Spirits made application for a sign on their business at 327 Cotton Row. Mr. Ware would like to reuse the sign on his current building when he opens his new business at that address. Marie Ware and Trent Harrison of Robinson Electric were present via Zoom to answer questions relating to the application. The sign is channel letters mounted on an 8" – 10" raceway. The letters are lit from inside. The sign itself is 14' long and 2-1/2' tall. Emily Jones stated that the sign is outside the historic district regulations. However, other members pointed out that Delta Dairy has a similar sign. The style and lighting of the sign are both issues. Trent Harrison suggested that commission members drive by the current location at night to see the sign. Emily Jones made a motion to hold on approving the sign application to allow for further study. Mrs. Valentine seconded the motion. It was decided that no vote was necessary, as this was to study the interpretation of the guidelines.

Team Cleveland recently sponsored Restaurant Week and one of the items voted on was the addition of a mural in the downtown area. Lynn Shurden spoke with Meredith Massy at MDAH regarding murals in historic districts. Meredith sent an example of guidelines and Lynn read those to the commission. Heritage Commission members discussed several issues. Among those issues were who decides on the content of the mural, and who would be responsible for the upkeep. Members also noted that the downtown historic district is small, and that there are other areas in town which would be better suited for the placement of a mural.

The Heritage Commission issued the following statement:

“Murals, at this time, are not allowed in the downtown historic district.”

Lynn Shurden met with Lara Bowman of the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce. The chamber would like for the Heritage Commission to assume control of their finances. Since this is public money, the commission will have to take bids from financial institutions. Commission members decided that the chairperson of the commission and the CLG coordinator will be signatories on the account. Lynn Shurden will send letters to area banks requesting bids, and Katie Portner will check on the deadline for receiving those. The following motion was made by Mickey Thompson:

The Cleveland Heritage Commission will receive control of its funds from the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce, and will solicit bids from area financial institutions for the maintenance of those funds. The signatories will be as noted above.

Judy Wilson seconded the motion. The vote was “aye” with no opposition.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History will provide online CLG training in April, May, and June. Subjects of the training will be “Responding to Disasters” and “Post World War II Neighborhoods”. This training is mandatory. Lynn will forward the email to commission members.

May is National Preservation Month. Lynn asked commission members to think about a subject for articles regarding that and the Heritage Commission. Lynn Shurden would also like to make presentations to different civic groups to educate the public on the purpose and mission of the commission.

Kenneth Taylor will have a report for the commission next month on the Sparklight Cable sign.

As there was no further business, Judy Wilson made a motion to adjourn, and Emily Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Cleveland Heritage Commission

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Shurden". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Lynn Shurden, Chair