

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CLEVELAND HERITAGE COMMISSION

March 9, 2021

**Members present:** Jonett Valentine, Cetin Oguz, Corinne Casanova, Judy Wilson, Mickey Thompson, 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.

Chair Lynn Shurden made the following statement for the record; "Everything we do is in compliance with national guidelines."

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

After review of the minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting, Jonett Valentine made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Judy Wilson seconded the motion. The vote was "aye" with no opposition.

Lara Bowman, CEO of the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce, was introduced to the members of the Heritage Commission. Ms. Bowman spoke briefly to the commission on upcoming events at the Chamber, as well as on Restaurant Week which was held in January. Approximately 1500.00 was raised and one of three projects was chosen by voters that week. The project which was chosen was to paint a mural on one of the buildings in the downtown area. Ms. Bowman stated that the Chamber would like to work with the Heritage Commission on guidelines for murals and other artwork downtown.

The members of the commission then began an in-depth discussion on the possibility of installing a mural in the Historic District. Becky Nowell spoke on the mural issue and shared a concept created by one of her friends. Heritage Commission members questioned whether the mural could be placed in another area of town, possibly down North Street. Katie Portner, assistant city attorney, stated that guidelines which currently state that no murals may be placed downtown can be updated to meet MDAH guidelines. We can also put limitations on all aspects relating to murals. The Heritage Commission will need to determine which steps to take if they decide to move forward with the issue. Jonett Valentine suggested that the city could commission one mural, instead of choosing from several entries. The commission asked for an inventory of spots available for a mural.

**Old Business**

Cetin Oguz presented the new logo design containing the representation of the railroad. Corinne Casanova made a motion to accept the basic design and return to the designer for necessary text. Judy Wilson seconded the motion. The commission will make the final decision on receipt of the updated design.

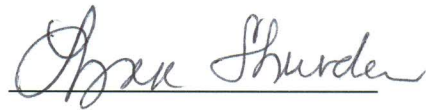
Kenneth Taylor gave an update on the sign at Sparklight cable company. The permit for the sign was issued by the Community Development staff during the early days of the pandemic. The sign application did not go before the Heritage Commission for approval. Katie Portner will check on guidelines regarding asking them to paint the building behind the sign. She will also check on penalties for not following the Heritage Commission ordinance and appearing before the Commission.

Lynn Shurden has contacted Claire Winn of the Mississippi Heritage Trust for her assistance with the Heritage Commission guidelines. Mississippi Heritage Trust does offer this service. The guidelines for the permitting of murals should be the first on the list to be addressed. Lighting and signs are also important issues. Judy Wilson made a motion to ask for a quote from the Mississippi Heritage Trust for their assistance on the Cleveland Heritage Commission guidelines, and to ask that the mural issue be a top priority. Corinne Casanova seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor.

Chair Lynn Shurden reminded commission members of the CLG training classes which will be held online. Classes are limited, so anyone interested should sign up as soon as possible. Lynn has signed up for all classes and Connie McClellan will sign up for three of the four classes.

As there was no further business, Corinne Casanova made a motion to adjourn, and Cetin Oguz seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Cleveland Heritage Commission

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lynn Shurden", written over a horizontal line.

Lynn Shurden, Chair