

Old Fort Mountain Heritage Alliance

October 21, 2009, 3:00

Members Present: Dru Heldman, Debbie Smith, Nada Carroll, Carroll Miller, Dean Kanipe, Wilma Allison, Brigette Walters, Carol Price, Rick Acrivos, David Tuch, Susie Painter, Scott Swickle, Terry Wilson, Ann Bevan, Ashley Wooten

Business: Creek Walk: David Tuch, Vice-President (RLA) Equinox Environmental Consultation & Design, Inc. David Tuch represents a firm experienced in planning and constructing greenway designs. His company will address all aspects of creating a master plan for the creekwalk we would like to create. The Firm will look at various aspects of creating a path along the creek taking in ecological, economic, flood plane, and feasibility study. They will make recommendations for the surface types that would best suit our needs. He feels that he would be able submit a proposal in order to meet a deadline of the end of the year. We will create and send out RFP's (request for proposal) as soon as possible. A committee will meet next Wednesday at 2:00 pm at the depot to write the RFP.

Organize our Alliance structure:

- Begin work on 501(c)(3) filing for Non-Profit Status: Before we can file for Non-Profit Status we must have our constitution and by-laws created.
- Form Mission/By-laws/Constitution drafting committee: Using by-laws from other organizations and comparing them to a standard format, rough drafts were created. Members at the meeting were given copies to work from. A committee consisting of Carol, Brigette, Wilma and Debbie was formed to edit and finalize the format. The final draft will be voted upon during the next meeting on November 18.
- Form Grant writing committee: Dru, Debbie, Dean, Rick, Susan Cole volunteered to serve on a committee to write grants. Dean, Dru, Debbie and Rick attended the Grant Writing workshop in October and will draft a request to be presented as "homework" in the class. The submission deadline is November 20.

Standing Committees:

- **Economic Development:** Dean is in the process of collecting the Retail Surveys and the Consumer Surveys. He will hopefully be finished and have all of the results tallied and marked. He is building a database and will conduct the drawing for the Old Fort Bucks prizes. Handmade in America will donate \$250 for the prizes and Andy Bunch will create the coupons.
- **Heritage and Preservation:** The project of getting Old Fort recognized as a Historical District has begun. Ann Swann at Mountain Gateway has much of the information. There will be a meeting held on Wednesday, November 4 at 4:00 pm at the depot. Dru, Nada, Brigette, Terrill, Ann Swann and Rebecca will be on this committee.
- **Promotion:** The Sundae Ice Cream social was a success even though it did rain. We had about 150 people come through and we dished out about 12 gallons of ice cream. There were many members present and assistance was immediate when there was a need. As a result everything went smoothly and extremely well. Thanks to all who participated and

attended. We did get 10 more members added to our roster. Great idea and well planned Susie!

There will be another Railroad Day on May 1st. We will dedicate the Linda Bunch Memorial Bench on Saturday as well. There will be a need for committee help in getting the day organized. Please consider serving on this committee.

There will also be a small group cluster town meeting on Tuesday, November 10th. There will be 4 towns participating and we can expect about 30 people. The towns of Crossnore, Bakersville, West Jefferson and Old Fort will be attending. We will need a committee to assist in the set up and clean up. Please volunteer to serve on a committee meeting being held Nov. 4 at 3:30.

- **Design and Beautification:** Eighteen new olive jars have been planted on Catawba Avenue. The Main Street planters have been replanted with winter hearty plants. There was some vandalism to several planters on Catawba Avenue. The biggest damage to the planters was removal of some of the plants. They were replanted right away. We need to pay more attention to Bradley Park as the weeds are growing abundantly. A landscaper will be consulted to see what would be recommended. We would like to purchase extra large planters for trees.

RFP's have been received for our Town Welcome Sign. The committee decided to forego the rock work as that was close to two-thirds of the total proposals. We will use wooden posts instead of rock. This way, we can order two, if not three signs for what we planned to spend on one. The current sign on 70West will not be reused. Garland Norton has volunteered to allow a sign to be placed on his property across from the current sign. Thank you very much Mr. Mayor!

Christmas lights: A request coming from this group was made to make suggestions to the Town on how they light the Arrowhead. Instead of radiating strings of light from the top of the arrowhead down to the fence, could the lights outline the monument? A group of committee members will meet with the town maintenance department. The lights will be put up prior to the Tree Lighting Ceremony that will take place on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 7:00 pm.

New Business: The Old Fort Community Chorus has made a request for assistance in purchasing new shirts, ties and blouses for their new members. The Chorus began in 1984 and has been performing concerts several times a year, including Easter Services, 4th of July, OFMHA Membership drive, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The Chorus is a Non-Profit organization and their dues go to purchase music. An increase in membership this year left them with little extra for costumes. There are monies available to the Alliance however some of that money was stipulated for specific purposes. The Alliance agrees that helping another organization of the town is appropriate and will help if appropriate funds are available. Carroll Miller volunteered that the Town of Old Fort will be able to provide \$500 towards their needs. Susie Painter and Debbie Smith will attend the Christmas Concert and speak to the public about our Alliance.

Next meeting November 18, 2009

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Debbie Smith, Secretary OFMHA