

**Old Fort Mountain Heritage Alliance
Board Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2008**

Members Present:

Dru Heldman, Chairperson, Pinwiltz Co. TAAS Gallery
David Quinn, Handmade In America
Wayne Martin, NC Folklife Director, NC Arts Council
Kim Lukasiak, BB&T
Debbie Acrivos, Fort Davidson Historical Park
Terrell Finley, Mountain Gateway Museum
Nada Carroll, Old Fort Planning Board
Carol Price, McDowell TDA
Dean Kanipe, McDowell Tech
Linda Bunch, Secretary, Old Fort resident

Kim Lukasiak called the meeting to order as Dru was delayed traveling from Boone.

News and Updates from Community Organizations in attendance:

McDowell TDA – Carol Price

Trails Association is holding a tribute to McDowell County on February 29, 2008 to celebrate all 2007 events at the Marion Community Building. There will be square dancing, other entertainment and refreshments. Invitations are to be mailed out to individuals, municipalities and non profit organizations.

The closing for the purchase of the McDowell House is scheduled for the week of January 28, 2008.

The NC Wildlife Commission, Marion office, is interested in working with the town to provide two additional sites along Mill Creek with public access and fishing pier(s) inside the town limits and at Andrews' Geysers Park. If the town agrees to work with them, the commission will make these additions at no cost to the town and will stock trout following the delayed harvest policy. Future meetings are planned for discussion.

Saturday, May 17th Railroad Days with historical train cars. Debbie asked for sources of railroad cars. The Transportation Museum in Spencer was suggested and Terrell said that he will contact them. The opening of the caboose at the Depot will also be explored.

Nada Carroll suggested publishing a cookbook of "Mountain Heritage Foods" as a fundraiser. This was done in the past and it is her understanding that the materials were not copyrighted.

Carol discussed the status of recognizing OFMHA as non profit. There was some discussion of the Town of Old Fort adopting the association. An adhoc committee of Carol, Kim and Dru was formed to complete the paperwork for submission to obtain a 501C3 designation.

Gateway Museum – Terrell Finley

The Margaret Morley exhibit will be on display at the Museum by the beginning of February. Some photographs will also be on display in businesses around Old Fort. Ms. Morley is an educator and photographer from Tryon, NC.

Pioneer Day is scheduled for April 26, 2008. The focus is always on traditional mountain skills and crafts with vendors and food.

Summerfest has been renamed “Blue Ridge Traditions in Old Fort” and will be held on June 14, 21, 28, and July 12, 19 and 26th. David Holt will be the entertainment at the kickoff on June 14th. There will be music in the amphitheatre, workshops and demonstrations with one weekend a food theme. The hours will be moved to later in the day.

Davidson Fort – Debbie Acrivos

A meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2008. The annual reenactment is tentatively planned for June 5 and 6, 2008.

Sims and Steele raising money to get the property paid for and another grant was recently applied for. **They need volunteers.** TAAS has a jar displayed for contributions. A mass mailing of promotion was suggested for Gateway Mountain.

The Davidson Fort website continues to indicate activity showing interest in Davidson Fort. Debbie reiterated that the plans include revolutionary period dress and Nada Carroll advised that Ann Allison makes costumes. Linda Bunch suggested reaching out to local colleges and McDowell Tech was mentioned as well. They need fabric donations.

Economic Development – Kim Lukasiak

Kim is setting up a bank account for OFMHA with an initial deposit of \$50.00.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2008. One of the goals is how to create an historical district in Old Fort. David Quinn suggested that a resource map of our Downtown outlining the condition and history of the facilities. He also mentioned the DCA (Division of Community Assistance) as a resource.

The Rockett Building (which the town owns) Project is planned and Nancy Jordan is the resource for putting the plan together. Nada Carroll is also a resource and commented how this project will be part of bringing back the history of Old Fort. The Resource Team that is visiting in March will be asked for input into landscaping ideas.

Janesville which is in the business of car and automobile textiles had reported that they are adding 50 new jobs in Old Fort.

Kim shared that of the 42 BB & T offices from west of Statesville to Asheville, the Old Fort BB & T office came in second based on performance.

Resource Team Visit – Kim Lukasiak and Dru Heldman

A Budget has been established.

Carol, Kim, David and Terrell comprise the Hospitality Committee.

Carol Price reported that the lodging for the team members has been reserved at the Inn at Millcreek. The OF Train Depot has also been reserved. There is meeting space available at the Inn which has given OFMHA a good rate. A welcome kit and Thank You basket are planned.

David Quinn advised that promotional and cultural information noting events, organizations, historic photographs and planning ordinances need to be completed by the end of February.

All interested members in OFMHA association are meeting at the Inn on February 5, 2008 to review the room accommodations and meeting space availability.

Promotion -Dru Heldman, OFMHA Chairperson

Website is up and running. A log has been created in a section with plans for a single password for members to access and add information to the site. There will be a link to Handmade in America. Plans also include a listing of all businesses in Old Fort. The website is <http://downtownoldfort.org>.

Members volunteering for this committee are Nada Carroll, Dru and Carol Price. **This Committee needs more members to volunteer.** A meeting will be scheduled.
Design Committee Bradley Park Project – Carol Price for Susi Painter

The Food fundraiser is scheduled for February 13, 2008. Port a Pit is the vendor and will be set up across from Bradley Park.

Other promotional ideas discussed included an Old Fort Pride Day, a children's contest for Old Fort drawings combined with a professional logo promoting OFMHA, a six tile image of Old Fort on back of a T shirt with our logo on the front.

Community and Cultural Preservation – Terrell Finley

A meeting has been scheduled for this committee on February 8th at 10:00 a.m. at the Museum office (Blue House). This committee needs more members. Terrell will contact Ann Swan to see if she might be available.

Nada reported that the Old Fort Town Planning Board is inactive at this time. The Chairperson had to resign.

Next Meeting

The next Steering Committee meeting will be Wednesday, February 14, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at the Depot. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: Linda Bunch, OFMHA Secretary
January 28, 2007