

Minutes
Union County Historic Preservation Commission
7 September 2010

The Union County Historic Preservation Commission met at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 7, 2010, in the Heritage Room at the historic Union County Courthouse, Monroe, North Carolina.

Present: Virginia Bjorlin, Dr. Jerry Surratt, Brad Hudson, Sis Dillon
Danny Stegall, Charles Williams

Absent: Al Diehl, Chairman; Carolyn Funderburk, Margaret Bivens

Also Present: Mary Lou Gamble, Harriett Moore

Chairman Al Diehl was not present due to his wife's illness. Mrs. Dillon nominated Mrs. Bjorlin as acting chairman. Mrs. Hudson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Mrs. Bjorlin announced that the nomination of Dale Loberger as Vice Chairman during the July meeting will need to be rescinded until his official appointment to the preservation commission is made by the City of Monroe. Approval should be by the end of September. Mr. Stegall made the motion to rescind the election of Mr. Loberger. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and the vote carried.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Bjorlin asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Mrs. Hudson moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Stegall seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Financial Report

Mrs. Gamble reported that she had spoken with Kim Turner, a Customer Representative, at the BB&T Bank. Ms. Turner said our account had been set up as a personal interest bearing checking account when the commission was established in 1981. Mrs. Gamble said that setting up a new account would be costly since new checks were ordered recently; therefore, it would be best to leave the account as is at this time.

Unfinished Business

Mrs. Bjorlin reported that the designation had been approved by the Union County Commissioners for Stallings Methodist Church. The Ordinance has been recorded at the Register of Deeds. A copy was delivered to the Union County Tax Assessor. Mrs. Gamble will send a complete copy of the designation report to the church.

Mrs. Bjorlin displayed the plaque that will be placed with the clock given to the Union County Historical Society by the family of Mr. Julian Brooks.

Mrs. Bjorlin asked the commission members to refer to the back of their agenda for a copy of the statement she had prepared concerning reservations about the proposed monument to the 10 Confederate Pensioners of Color.

Mrs. Bjorlin asked for assistance from Jeff Croke, Attorney for Union County, for clarification on how to proceed for plans for a public hearing on September 7. concerning the Application of Certificate of Appropriateness that has been received for the proposed monument for the Confederate Pensioners of Color. She met with Mr. Croke on August 24 and he informed her that this was the first time the Legal Dept. had been made aware of the Application. Before County Manager, Al Green's departure, he had told Mr. Barry Wyatt, Director of Facilities, to sign the Application of Certificate of Appropriateness in order to begin the designation process. Mr. Croke said that the Union County Commissioners should be the ones to sign a Certificate of Appropriateness since it is such a sensitive matter. Mrs. Bjorlin said that Mr. Croke suggested that the Historic Preservation Commission send a letter to the Union County Commissioners and list reservations about the monument. In preparing the proposal, Mrs. Bjorlin stated that she is trying to set forth facts, not opinions, for the Union County Commissioners to review. Mrs. Bjorlin asked the commission members to look over the draft and make suggestions. She said that it will be sent to the Legal Department for review before sending a final draft to the Union County Commissioners. Each item was discussed at length.

Below is the revised statement after careful review by the Preservation Commission members.

8 September 2010

To: Union County Commissioners

From: Union County Historic Preservation Commission

RE: Monuments on the Historic Union County Courthouse grounds

We want you to be aware of the facts about monuments/plaques on the historic courthouse and grounds. These constitute our reservations about adding future monuments

1. These are the monuments presently existing at the historic courthouse:

Revolutionary Soldiers – southeast corner facing Franklin Street.

These men subsequently lived in what later became Union County.

World War I – near southwest corner facing Main Street

Confederate Obelisk – west side facing Main Street

Korean War – near northwest corner facing Jefferson Street

World War II – plaque attached to building next to west side door

Firefighters Monument and Bell – east side facing Hayne Street

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2. With the exception of the Revolutionary monument, all of the above list those Union County soldiers, also firefighters, who died in service—where individuals are named.

3. The Confederate Monument lists no individuals, only Companies formed in Union County.

4. The Confederate Monument is the oldest of all the monuments, having been dedicated on 4 July 1910, financed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The inscription reads, "DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE BOYS IN GRAY FROM UNION COUNTY WHO GAVE THEIR ALL TO THE PROTECTION OF HOME 1861-1865".

5. The 10 Confederate Pensioners of Color proposed for a monument did not die in the war- they lived over six decades after the war was over. They are listed as "body servants", even the one who was a freedman.

6. Thanks to the diligence of Barbara Moore, volunteer in the Heritage Room, we have listed in *The Heritage of Union County, Vol. II*, the names of 1,809 Union County soldiers in the Civil War. Of this number, 552 died and 467 were wounded. Of the latter, a number received pensions; others of the veterans received pensions if they lived long enough. (Pensions were also eventually awarded to some widows.)

7. The future museum in the historic courthouse will have a room dedicated to the Civil War and its role in Union County history. That will be an appropriate place to memorialize the Pensioners of Color, as well as all Civil War veterans, since there could be included a lot more detail about them.

8. In summary, the Union County Historic Preservation Commission recommends that no future memorials be placed on the grounds of the historic Union County courthouse apart from the dead of a future national conflict.

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The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on October 5, 2010, in the Heritage Room at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Diehl
Chairman

Virginia Bjorlin
Acting Chairman

September 7, 2010