

Town of James Island History Council  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021  
6:00 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes  
Meeting was held virtually in a Zoom webinar

In Attendance: Chair, Paul Hedden, Inez BrownCrouch, Jim Morrisette, Susan Milliken, Melissa Dority, Ashley Kellahan (Town Administrator) and Mayor Bill Woolsey--liaison to History Council.

Meeting called to order at 6 p.m. by Chair Paul Hedden. Introduction and welcome for new History Council member Melissa Dority. The February 2021 History Council meeting minutes were approved unanimously. Motion to approve made by Inez BrownCrouch, seconded by Paul Hedden.

Chair Hedden reminded the History Council that although History Council events are on pause until June 2021 due to the Covid pandemic, the History Council will continue to meet monthly.

Mayor Woolsey let the council know that the Brockington Group would be working with the Town to plan the displays for the JI Arts and Cultural Center per Town Council's approval. The Center is expected to open in the summer of 2021.

Ashley Kellahan suggested that the History Council meet with reps from the Brockington Group at the April meeting of the History Council, the location for the meeting would be the new Arts and Cultural Center (under renovation). Paul Hedden made the motion to meet at the JI Arts and Cultural Center with the Brockington Group for the April 6, 2021 meeting of the history council. Inez BrownCrouch seconded this motion. Members unanimously agreed.

Chairman Paul Hedden inquired of each member regarding their area of special interest in history that they might like to pursue. Jim Morrisette – Reconstruction era on James Island. Other members stated several topics. The Council began a discussion regarding whether it might be possible to put information that members have researched and written up on the Town's website or in a Google doc or file location for members to access and read. Chairman Hedden is still working on the JI Airport history and wants to make sure that if an historical marker is installed, it would be installed in the correct location. The airport was located on Riverland Drive. It would also be helpful to gather information on the locations of all the James Island cemeteries. Discussion continued re. a repository of sorts for History Council papers and information. Ashley Kellahan gave the council several suggestions on how to do this and reminded the council that the JI History Booklet is available online in a readable PDF version.

The council discussed collaborating with other City and Town history councils and committees in the area. It was noted that the City of Charleston's History Committee would be meeting soon. Mayor Woolsey reminded the History Council that all gatherings and/or meetings of the council with a quorum present are subject to SC Open Meetings Act requirements and meeting minutes and meeting agendas need to be timely posted per the statute.

Discussion occurred regarding the opening of the JI Arts and Cultural Center in mid- 2021. Susan Milliken inquired about the wooden etched magnet that the Town had made for the opening of Town Hall. Ashley Kellahan showed the council the magnet and it was discussed whether something similar

could be made for the opening of the Arts & Cultural Center, Summer 2021. Exact opening date is still unknown due to delays on the installation of the new AC/Heating unit which may not occur until May or June 2021.

Mayor Woolsey notified the History Council of an invitation from teachers Michele Johnson and Amy Ball with JICHHS wherein UBASA students will be touring African American cemeteries on James Island on April 1, 2021 and also do a litter pickup/clean-up of a cemetery that day. The itinerary includes Honey Hill, Secessionville Rd, McLeod Plantation and Dill Sanctuary. The group has requested \$500 in funds from the TOJI to provide for lunch at Bohemian Bull for teachers and students. The group is the UBASA group at the high school and helped to plan the school's Black History Month educational activities, etc. Discussion proceeded regarding supporting this educational effort on the part of the teachers and students at JICHHS by providing lunch. Chairman Paul Hedden made a motion to approve \$500 in funds to the group for lunch at Bohemian Bull for approx. 30 or more teachers and students. Susan Milliken seconded the motion. The members voted unanimously for this expenditure to support the educational field trip.

Chairman Paul Hedden discussed the need for an historical marker for Secessionville and Grimball Farm. Paul will discuss this with the Grimball community and contact Mr. Middleton and the neighborhood group. Additional discussion included other possible historical markers on James Island e.g. at the 3 Trees School location.

Inez BrownCrouch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approx. 7 p.m. Susan Milliken seconded the motion to adjourn. Unanimous agreement to adjourn.

Minutes prepared by S. Milliken