

Cayce Historical Museum Commission Meeting  
Minutes for Thursday, July 15, 2021  
4: 00 PM

Members Present: Archie Moore, Mary Sharpe, A. G. Dantzler, Marion Hutson,  
Charlita Earle, Pamela Sulton, Garrett Creasman and Leo Redmond,  
Ex-Officio

Absent, Excused: David Brinkman, James Stewart

Museum Staff: Andy Thomas

City of Cayce: Tracy Hegler, City Manager and Mendy Corder Municipal Clerk

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Archie Moore.
- Commissioner A. G. Dantzler offered the Invocation.
- Chairman Moore welcomed and introduced the new Commissioners.
- The minutes of April 7, 2021 were reviewed and approved unaimously, moved and seconded by Mary Sharpe and A. G. Dantzler respectively.
- The minutes of May 5, 2021 were reviewed and approved unanimously, moved and seconded by Marion Hutson and A. G. Dantzler, respectively.
- The Christmas Celebration Schedule was received and discussed. The dates are: December 2, Drive Thru at City Hall, December 3, Caroling on the Riverwalk, December 4, Christmas Traditions at the Museum.
- Ideas for the Theme for The Christmas Traditions Celebration at the Museum was discussed and the theme selected was "*Re-United We Stand At Christmas*"
- Commissioner Marion Hutson indicated that he would begin to contact persons to provide entertainment, food, re-enactments and to conduct the popular Lantern Tours.
- Museum Staff Reports  
Andy Thomas provided the usual reports including Visitation numbers and Visitation fee collections. The Expenditure Budget Analysis Report FY – 2022 was also submitted

## July 15, 2021 Minutes Continued

Museum Staff Reports continued with the following:

- Report on S. C. Fire Fighter's Convention
- Report on visit to the Museum by Erik the Travel Guy
- Report on the Firehouse Exhibit
- African American Committee Report (Fall Fest Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Meetings in Visitors Center
- Museum Staffing and Hours (July, August) Vacation (Sept. 10-17)
  - The City Manager spoke regarding the need to vary Museum hours due to the resignation of Jerry Kirkland, which leaves the staff short.

The staff reported that the Museum has been invited to participate in the Camden Fire Festival on September 25, 2021. This will necessitate transporting our Antique Firetruck to Camden with staff participation. Motion was made by Commissioner Dantzler to participate in this event, with second to the motion by Commissioner Sulton. Motion was approved unanimously.

Staff reported on the following upcoming events:

August 14 – Museum represented at Historic Camden for Revolutionary War Days

August 19 – Lecture on Weberites ( J. R. Fennell ) 6:00 P. M.

September 23 – Lecture on Mark Catesby ( John Meyers ) 6:00 P. M.

September 25 – Camden Fire Festival

### Other Business

Andy Thomas read a statement of a personal nature to the Commission and he asked that a copy be submitted into the record.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 P. M.

## **Andy Thomas: Address to the Commission, July 15, 2021**

I felt the need to address some issues about myself because of some things I have heard floating around as rumors.

1) First off, I heard that I had been fired from my job at the University of South Carolina (USC) just before I took this job with the museum. This is an untrue statement. I have never been fired from a job. I gave two weeks' notice once I had been offered and accepted the job with Cayce. I resigned and left on good terms. I spent 2 years earning my museum management certificate. I then spent two years looking for and praying for a job I could take in the museum field. I know God led me to this position. So, to learn about this untrue statement of me being fired was very hurtful and deceitful.

2) Secondly, I would like to address the museum files. It is true, when I first started I began organizing and going through the files. I found some things that were not archival materials like a file folder stuffed with tissue paper, a folder with a seed catalog 2 decades outdated, files on how to use the City of Cayce e-mail system in 1995, empty file folders with topics written on the outside of the file but nothing inside, etc. I threw some of that out. Not a lot (I only went through 5-10% of all the files) before you had your meeting and my Supervisor Tracy Hegler requested me to stop. When I was going through the files it definitely was not my intention to throw out anything historically valuable. I did reorganize and move some older files-related to administration issues some 5-10- or 20 years before-not any of the history files- to our storage shed in the area we use to store other documents and archival materials. The files might not be organized as you remember it, but they are all still with our museum. All the files I reviewed, archived, and relocated are in our museum shed and our Commission members or invited to see them if you wish to do so.

3) Although I have been an advocate for change to stay relevant and will continue to do so, I bring any potential major change ideas or actions to the City Manager and this Commission. I was successful in bringing the idea of a changing exhibit to this museum and this was approved by this Commission. I brought to you the idea of changing a wall in our trade room. You did not approve it. I think change should be purposeful. It should be done to move our museum forward. I am not into change for change's sake. I agree as it was agreed upon several Commission

meetings back that change has to be made in a united manner. I believe we should make our story of Cayce more diverse and create a deeper level of understanding on some local events and people not currently interpreted in our museum. Let's explore these matters about our museum in the coming year.

4) I am making an appeal that we all work together. The future is where we can dream big and do big things in our community and in this state. How can we best serve existing and new generations? The new visitor center at the 12,000 Year History Park is something that we can either resist an wage an uphill fight (against the National Park Service, the State of SC, Lexington County, and the City of Cayce) or something we can seek a way to compliment to bring more visitors to our museum. That means hard work and clarity on who we are and how our differences from the 12,000 Year History Park can pave the way to our future success with our community and our visitors.

I am blessed to be here! I know we can find a way to trust each other. We all want the best for the Cayce Historical Museum. Let's make a new way starting now. Thank you!

**(Please enter this into the record) Andy Thomas, Cayce Historical Museum, Museum Office and Communications Associate**