

**Cayce Historical Museum Commission Meeting\***  
**\*ZOOM Virtual Meeting**

Wednesday, February 3, 2021  
4:00 pm

**Minutes**

Members Present: Dale Gaskins, Archie Moore, Mary Sharpe, AG Dantzler, Marion Hutson, Alice Brooks  
Ex Officio Member: Leo Redmond

Staff: Jerry Kirkland, Museum Curator, and Andy Thomas, Museum Office and Communications Associate

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

Special Guests: Pamela Sultan, Garrett Creasman, James Stewart, and Rev. Rusty Rabon

- Commissioner Chair Dale Gaskins called the meeting to order.
- Commissioner Hutson offered the invocation.
- Chairman Gaskins welcomed City of Cayce Manager Tracy Hegler and our special guests and Commissioners had a brief moment of silence to grieve the passing of beloved Commissioner Judy Corbitt
- No minutes were reviewed since the last official meeting was March, 2020, prior to Covid shutdown of public meetings. The minutes from that meeting, however, had been submitted to members, staff and City Officials last year. (There was no quorum present for the February, 2020 meeting, so only notes were taken, but referred to in the March minutes.)
- Chairman Gaskins thanked everyone for agreeing to meet by Zoom. There was a brief discussion about the difficulties presented by 2020 (and continuing in the present); however, the Museum was never officially closed and staff did a good job attending to the details of keeping it operational.
- City Manager Tracy Hegler also addressed Covid protocol as it pertains to City meetings and City business over all. City employees are working on split shifts as of this date, to be re-evaluated in the next week. Overall, she is pleased with the safety and health precautions the City has taken to protect its workers and its citizens. The Mask Ordinance remains in effect through the end of March at least. She, Corder, and Assistant Manager Crosland, as well as other City employees remain in contact with Museum staff and are willing to assist in any way needed.
- Museum Staff:
  - Jerry Kirkland expressed appreciation to the City for all the help the Museum has had during the past year. He reported that a lot of internal work was done during the year, but the Museum remained responsive to visitors or public inquiries for historical or other City facts and information. Visitors were limited to no more than six at any one time and were required to mask and social distance.
  - Andy Thomas indicated the handouts that were sent to all Commissioners and offered some highlights:
    - Fifty objects that are good representations of the City's history are being featured as a "virtual exhibit" – one object each week highlighted and explained on the Museum's website and social media platforms.
    - February is Black History Month and the Museum is celebrating by posting about prominent African Americans who have been involved (and are currently involved) in Cayce's rich history

and culture. Thomas especially thanked volunteer Pamela Sultan for her assistance in this project. The people/events are being promoted on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays throughout Black History Month.

- The Shed behind the Museum proper is being cleaned out and organized. Of particular importance, Christmas decorations and other paraphernalia have been organized since this is the Museum's signature and most consistent event for the public each year.
- The eagerly awaited Fire Truck display is ready to go as soon as we physically possible. We had planned for a huge event and media rollout for this prior to the pandemic. "Big Red" is a very special and popular acquisition that has been years in restoration, with strong volunteer support, and needs to be promoted and celebrated.
- Chairman Gaskins spoke briefly about Total Quality Management. He is a certified trainer and national TQM instructor. Commissioner Brooks also has experience with TQM, but only on a local level. Gaskins reported that he had gone through some of his TQM materials and decided to employ them during the pandemic and felt that his productivity had increased. He gauged the interest in the Commission working with some TQM principles, not intending to overthink or make unnecessary work, but just to help with our goal setting and organization. He asked that each Commissioner come up with five or so ways he or she could benefit the Museum by the next meeting. Gaskins will help by starting spreadsheets for us to use and suggesting things himself, e.g., Gaskins will commit to contacting Museum staff at least once each week. Commissioner Sharpe made a motion that we try TQM. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed.
- New Business:
  - Possible fundraising idea – Museum Assistant Thomas has been in contact with Renea Eshleman of the Cayce Arts Commission. Eshleman is offering to complete a painting of Big Red (value \$100) to be used in a raffle. Commissioners discussed the logistics of this, to include how tickets would be handled as well as the fact that it would have to go through the Saxe Gotha Society, the official fundraising arm of the Museum. Commissioners Moore and Brooks thought this was a good idea that needs to be discussed at the next meeting when we have more information on the members of the Saxe Gotha Society, which is currently reorganizing.
  - The Commission will need to elect officers next month as well as establish the standing committees discussed pre-pandemic: Purchasing, Advertising, Finance, and Personnel.
- There are two Board vacancies at this time. Four potential candidates were gracious enough to attend this meeting. Chairman Gaskins asked them to introduce themselves:
  - Pamela Sulton is a longtime resident of Cayce, having married into a well-known family-owned business (Booker and James Sultan were fixtures in Cayce history, owning the popular Sulton's Auto Repair & Body Shop. She has been active in many civic and community endeavors, such as Lexington School District where she works to bridge the gap between students and adults, as well as the Julius Felder Coalition for Change. Most notable in her volunteer work is her affiliation with the 12,000 Year Park, where she is an interpreter and has been nationally recognized. Earth Works is her specialty where she guides the Lantern Tours in character with five different narratives. She specializes in the Revolutionary and Civil War eras, Naturalist and Ft. Congaree activities. In addition, she is employed fulltime by Ft. Jackson.
  - Garrett Creasman has been an area resident for many years, attending Brookland-Cayce High School, then the University of South Carolina where his studies included an emphasis on History and Sociology. He works at Blue Cross-Blue Shield of South Carolina, but has never lost his interest in History and

Culture of the area. He is a married father of two and has lots of experience with children's programs. He is eager to continue children's interest in history.

- James Stewart is an Archaeologist with much experience with artifacts of this area and the Midlands' importance in the evolution of South Carolina. His Masters Thesis was completed at Ft. Congaree. He has also been involved in Earth Works projects and wants to continue integrating his job with community involvement.
- The Rev. Rusty Rabon\*\* is a native of Cayce and the current Pastor of Grace Chapel, Dixiana Road. He first gained interest in the Museum by attending the City's Community Leaders Meetings, which were held in the Museum's Founders Room. He was impressed with our exhibits and looks forward to learning more. As a former ballplayer, he was particularly taken with the Museum's Salute to the Dixie Youth World Champions exhibit and hopes to see more activities like that to bring new publics in.

\*\* Update: Rev. Rabon has since withdrawn his application.

- As more candidate information is outstanding, no decisions on Board vacancies will be made until Commissioners have had the opportunity to review all. But Commissioners wanted to express our gratitude to the above four candidates and hope they will consider being involved with us in some manner – as a Commissioner or member of the Saxe Gotha Society. All are impressive and have much to offer.
- Chairman Gaskins feels we need an aggressive campaign to attract more Museum Docents as well as a training program. He and his wife researched and went to a number of Museums during the pandemic and were impressed with the level of enthusiasm and knowledge of the Docents.
- Museum Curator Kirkland expressed sadness over the recent passing of Henry Satterfield, who had been a valuable volunteer for the Museum. He hopes we will establish a memorial page on the website or Facebook page to salute individuals such as Mr. Satterfield and our own recently-deceased Commissioner Judy Corbitt.
- Museum Staff and Commissioners wish to express thanks to the City for their help and encouragement for this meeting (which all Commissioners agree was a pleasant surprise and success), and especially to Mendy Corder for arranging the Zoom meeting details. Commissioners have agreed to meet virtually again at our regular time next month. Commission Chair Gaskins will be in touch by email and phone with information and potential agenda.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned (moved and seconded by Commissioners Moore and Brooks, respectively).

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Brooks, Commissioner and Acting Secretary