

**PLANNING AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY JOINT HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC)  
MINUTES  
November 12, 2019, 4:00 PM**

- I. **Call to Order** Chair, Rebecca Suddeth called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Members attending were Rebecca Suddeth, Nancy Henderson, Molly Jenkins, Jeffrey Mills and Vera Taylor. Staff member Jason Stewart, Director of Planning and Community Development was present. Ellen Pratt Harris and Melanie Spreen were absent (excused) and Betty Runion was absent.
- II. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes:** Molly Jenkins moved to approve the November 13, 2019, agenda as presented and the previous meeting minutes (October 8, 2019). Jeffrey Mills seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- III. **Old Business**
  - A. Annual Report – Rebecca asked members to look at the 2019 JHPC Annual Report for review. Jason Stewart advised that JHPC would be presenting to the Board of Commissioners and to the City of Brevard. The presentation will probably be presented to the County Board of Commissioners in December and to the City Council in January. It will be at the prerogative of the Board of Commissioners Chairman and the County Manager. Rebecca Suddeth advised that Melanie Spreen would be presenting and if JHPC Board members would like to attend that would be a good idea. Jason Stewart will let Board members know when it is officially on the agenda. Rebecca questioned if the Annual Report also has to be filed with the State Historic Preservation Office. Jason answered that he is working on those channels.
  - B. CLG Presentation to Planning Board – Rebecca Suddeth advised that Dr. Michael Ann Williams will be presenting the presentation, “Walking Around the World: African American Landscapes and Experience in Transylvania County, NC” to the Planning Board on November 21, 2019. Jason Stewart invited JHPC Board members to attend the meeting, which will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Services Building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room.
  - C. Preservation NC Fall Symposium – Jeffrey Mills attended the Preservation NC Symposium in Raleigh. Preservation North Carolina is moving out of their downtown headquarters in Raleigh to what used to be an African American Village (Overland Village). Overland Village up until the 1950’s was a very active village. Due to a road widening project, there were only five buildings left, two of which were churches. Preservation North Carolina took two of the houses and revived them. The City gave them property, so they moved two houses onto the property and the project took three years to complete. Neither house had a basement, so they dug a basement about 7 feet high on concrete and put both houses on the same basement. The utilities, furnace and air conditioning were put in the basement. The houses were open for tours and the headquarters will relocate there. For the second session, there was a presentation from two officers who have done a lot of downtown

restoration work in Pittsburgh, PA. The Ohio River which is across from downtown Pittsburgh, there was an old steel factory that was torn down. There were railroad tracks and a beautiful hill that someone thought could be developed into a central shopping area with restaurants. The location had a beautiful view of the river, but the railroad tracks were interfering with the view. They were able to put in a hiking and biking trail in place of the railroad tracks. It is known as Market Square and is the place to go in Pittsburgh. Jeffrey commented that what they are trying to do is create affordable housing, but they like to call it workforce housing. They are restoring a lot of brownstones, buildings and homes. Some are fairly expensive and others were made affordable. Both of these events were CLG credits.

- D. Christmas at Silvermont – This event is the same date as the Twilight Tour, which is Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There will be treat bags for the first 100 children. Both the downstairs and upstairs will be decorated, the Friends of Silvermont and DAR will be doing tours of the upstairs. If any JHPC Board member wants to participate, you wouldn't need to stay the whole time. Marcy Thompson, with the Historical Society, will be taking care of the downstairs and Rebecca Suddeth will be taking care of the upstairs. Last year they sold the books, *Transylvania, The Architectural History of a Mountain County*. JHPC can sell those again this year.

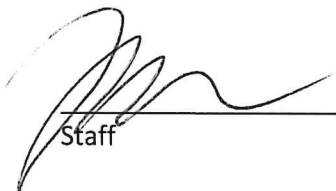
IV. New Business:

- A. Brevard, Historic Downtown Walking Tour Guide – Jason Stewart updated the Board members on the reprinting of the brochure. Jason asked members if they would be interested in applying for a grant to reprint the brochures. Marcy Thompson, former JHPC Chair, recommended requesting 5,000 copies instead of 2,500. Jason commented that if there are no objections, we will try to get something together.

Board members discussed a walking tour of homes in Brevard, like the Historic Ramble, which was done a couple of years ago. Places like Charleston have walking tours and you are told something about each house, but you don't go inside the house. In Richmond, VA, homeowners have Christmas tours of certain houses. JHPC could also look into an event that would be a countywide bus tour of homes and have someone do a narrative of each home or building. JHPC may be able to partner with Oskar Blues to lend their bus for the tour.

- V. Public and Board Member Comments: Rebecca Suddeth received an email from Reed Wood, but they haven't been able to get together to talk. Jason Stewart commented he will let the Board know when the Board of Commissioners are ready for JHPC's presentation.
- VI. Adjourn: Nancy Henderson motioned to adjourn. Molly Jenkins seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned around 4:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on the regular meeting date of December 10, 2019.

MINUTES APPROVED  
  
Rebecca Suddeth, Chair

  
Staff  
3-10-20  
Date