

Town of Richlands
Section House Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2023

Attendance: Lynna Mitchell (chair), Greg Horn, Sandra Culler, Zadin Lawson, Brad Lawson, Donna Altizer, Eleanor Armes, Gaynelle Thompson

I. Call to order

The meeting convened at 5:05pm.

II. Minutes

The board approved the minutes from the 6/15/23 meeting.

III. College student volunteers

--Lynna requested last month that the student volunteers who indicated interest in working on the maintenance of the house should attend this month to discuss their intentions. The students did not attend, so this item has been tabled.

IV. Financial report

--Rod noted that Sandra Culler and Linda Hale made donations for the use of the house this month for \$45 total; Lettie from the town advised him that Bill Barker has yet to cash his \$500 honorarium check from the Jefferson visit; Rod will contact Bill.

--Our current balance with the town is \$6,944.60. However, this figure does not include the Bill Barker check nor the \$925 cost to Vance Graphics for the new front room enlarged photo and plaque.

V. Don't Stop Believing Rod Race

--The Don't Stop Believing road race, a fundraiser for St. Jude's, will start and finish at the Section House on the morning of July 29 (8:00am start). Race director Charity Hurst has indicated that she has the event covered and does not need any of us to attend; however, Rod mentioned that he intends to be there.

VI. Updates on house refresh

--Lynna suggested we use the new front room photo as our thematic centerpiece for revamping the house; Rod suggested we hang the quilt in the bedroom; Donna shared that the Roanoke Public Library can email us digital copies of several photos relevant to Richlands railroad history that we could use; the fees are nominal, so Donna offered to obtain some for our use.

--Lynna suggested we organize a public event in commemoration of our fifth anniversary, which is this October; she asked everyone to consider possible dates.

--Donna suggested an exhibition of railroad photography could be part of the event.

- Zadin suggested that we start the revamp by gathering and evaluating our pictures;
- The board decided to meet Monday, July 31 at 5:30pm to assess our pictures and reorganize them.

VII. Christmas tree pre-purchase

- Rod shared that we were never billed by Earl Keen for last year's three Christmas trees; he asked that we consider purchasing trees from Keen again this year and to make clear that we are willing to pay for them. The board will consider this.

VIII. Picnic tables

- Donna priced wooden picnic tables for the house grounds at approx. \$150 each and suggested we consider buying two and including umbrella; the board also discussed making sure that if we do acquire picnic tables they wood will be treated to ensure long-term durability.

IX. Other business

- Lynna solicited ideas for our five-year anniversary celebration; the date has yet to be determined, but we will select a Saturday in October. Ideas for the event included: a train ride and/or face painting for children, a food truck, storytelling about the mural, partnering with the Richlands Public Library on their current renovation, and reviving the historic walking tour and/or having Gaynelle do a history talk. Lynna asked that we all think further about our ideas for the next meeting.
- Donna shared that the poster in the large front room photo was from famous animal trainer Isaac Van Amberg's circus, which came to town around July 10, 1890.

Next meeting--Monday, August 7 at 5:00pm at the Section House

Adjournment—6:10pm

Minutes prepared by Greg Horn
June 29, 2023