

NCHS Minutes 5/6/14

The NCHS met on May 6th for their regular scheduled meeting. All board members were present except for Peter Ludlow, Lauren Carlsen and Lisa Harwell.

The April minutes were read and accepted as written.

Laurie Pope then gave the financial report. The first report was the register. It showed what payments had been made and to whom. Laurie stated that at the beginning of April NCHS showed \$ 190,609, spending \$ 14,865.93 and depositing \$ 2,361. There was a deficit between income and expense of \$ 12,504. Laurie stated that at this “burn rate” the NCHS would be out of operating capital in 10 months. He stated that he was very concerned and that we needed to curtail all non-essential spending and to come up with ways to raise money. Laurie suggested this could be done through fund-raisers, corporate sponsorships, and rentals. He also stated that on rentals we need to rethink reduced rates for non-profits, as this needs to be a source of income. He further remarked that if we as a board don’t turn this around we would be out of business in a short time. He was hopeful that as a board we would work together to improve the financial situation. Sarah LaMance agreed.

Robert Hancock stated that there was a need to account for how much is being spend for McRitchie-Hollis Museum vs. the regular bills. Laurie and Robert will take a look at this together.

President Sarah LaMance introduced, Dr. McCleary, Dr. Hebert and Dr. Fuller who then presented an overview of the strategic plan in which all board members had received via email, a draft to read before the meeting. President LaMance also appointed Lauren Carlsen, Dave Dorrell, Jeremy Henson and Peter Ludlow and herself to a committee to go over the Strategic Plan and make revisions. All board members were asked to forward their questions, suggestions and concerns to these committee members.

Robert Hancock expressed his desire for NCHS to work with the University of West Georgia and continue to have a partnership with them. It was stated by Dr. McCleary that any committee could consult with her and it was also offered that Dr. Fuller would be available to mediate conversations and facilitate meetings, helping people come together and everyone being heard on any given issue. Dr. McCleary asked that once the strategic committee had met that they develop a timeline so that all could have on their schedules.

Keri updated everyone on the student exhibit on the History of Newnan High School at the Male Academy Museum. There will be a reception on Thursday May 8th, from 5-6:30 for board members to preview this exhibit, which opens this weekend. Keri said there were 70 interviews done, artifacts collected and that the students had hung panels and labeled copy. This exhibit was funded through University of West Georgia and private sponsorships.

Sarah LaMance announced that there would be a reception and unveiling of a painting by Martin Pate that was commissioned by NCHS on May 24th. The painting was paid for by sponsorships.

Robert Hancock asked that Drs. McCleary, Fuller and Hebert take a look at the NCHS collections in the brick building and give guidance on what to keep and what to dispose of. Keri spoke up and said that there were potential stories to be told about these items. There followed much discussion about determining what of these items had been accessioned and which had not. Legally the board has to de-accession anything that has been accessioned before it can be disposed of. It was suggested that Dorothy Pope would have a list of these items. Dr. McCleary advised the board not to take items if we do not plan to accession them. She also suggested that if we had a sale of de-accessioned items, not to hold that sale locally. Sarah LaMance named the members of the Collections Committee as Robert Hancock, Tom Camp, Pat Yancey Sr, Dorothy Pope, Jeremy Hinson and staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Ann Parks, Secretary