



TOWN OF LA PLATA
Historic Preservation Commission Minutes
March 21, 2025, 11:00 AM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Rich Gilpin
Steuart Bowling
Paddy Mudd
Mary Beth Chandler
Jane Hobbs

ABSENT:

TOWN STAFF:

GUESTS: Councilman David Winkler
Bob Curran
Ronald Rosenthal
Anthony Puzzilla
Bill Holt
Kathy Quimby

1. Call to Order

1.1. Call to Order

Chairman Gilpin called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. In the absence of Town Staff Mary Beth Chandler, recorded minutes.

1.2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Gilpin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1. Approval of minutes from meeting on January 24, 2025.

Ms. Chandler moved to approve the minutes for the meeting on January 24, 2025.

Moved By: Mary Beth Chandler, seconded by Jane Hobbs.

Passed

3. Matters of Discussion

3.1. Workgroup Reports

- Train Station Museum
- Historic Plaques

- Firehouse Museum
- Tornado Observances

The train station museum opening is April 26, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00. The commission was remembered to attend. Stuart Bowling and Rich Gilpin will mount the train donated by P. S. Bowling's Department Store prior to the opening. Bob Curran offered to assist.

Bob Curran will build a platform for the Harry Potter Train Set. He is also making a radio tower model in memory of Art Audley for the train display.

Bob will get further information about the Garden Train Display Society.

The air conditioner needs to be replaced in the caboose. Rich will bring this to the attention of Kelly Phipps.

It was noted that the caboose door was open again, but nothing was missing.

Rich will remove the money from the donation box and give it to the town treasurer.

1926 TORNADO OBSERVANCES

Vice Chair Stuart Bowling updates the plans to observe the 100th anniversary of the 1926 tornado.

There will be an exhibit in the atrium of the Town Hall and at Milton Sommers Middle School. Stuart and Tony Puzzilla plan to have their book published and the Port Tobacco Player will be giving a performance relating to this event. A privately funded documentary will be made by Maryland Motion Pictures that can be broadcast on Maryland Public Television.

HISTORIC MARKERS

Kelly Phipps (Interim Town Clerk) was given the necessary documentation and invoice to order "The Schoolhouse" marker. One-half payment will be made from the 2024 HPC budget. The remainder is to be paid from the 2025 budget. The cost of the marker is \$3965.00.

There was much discussion regarding plagues of homes and businesses in the town. Chair Mary Beth Chandler will meet with the subcommittee and bring a recommendation to the commission in May.

THE LA PLATA MUSEUM (ORIGINAL FIREHOUSE)

LDH Architects provided the Commission with an in-depth feasibility study contract for the museum building. Ron Rosenthal and Commission members will meet for further clarification of the study. This renovation can be done in phases. The estimated cost of the project is \$130,000.

4. Other Business

There was no other business to be discussed.

5. Matters of Information

5.1. Town Council Report

Councilman Winkler spoke about the need for the Town to have a designated historic district. Mary Beth Chandler showed the Commission a map dated August 14, 2000, showing the approved boundaries of the historic district that were documented by U.S. 301 South Corridor Transportation Study.

The Town cannot take advantage of grant funding offered for preservation without an official historic district.

5.2. Staff Report

6. Adjourn

6.1. Adjournment

Moved By: Mary Beth Chandler, seconded by Steuart Bowling.
Ms. Chandler moved to adjourn at 12:35 PM.

Passed

Submitted by:

Lawrence J. Jones Jr., Town Clerk