Friends of Mimosa Hall

Minutes – August 9, 2018

Thank you to Renasant Bank for hosting our board meeting

In attendance:

Financial report: Michelle Slater, Treasurer

7635.29 after paying Sarah her first installment

A couple of reimbursement checks still outstanding

New Business

1. New Board and Officers welcome – Mike Harris
2. Discussion on meeting date and time – suggested we alternate Tuesdays and Thursdays
3. Discussion on administrative tools such as SLACK and Google Docs.

Slack – communications tool – Susan will set up (Sally can provide support)

Google Docs – we will use this for collaborative documents

1. Board Insurance (Directors and Officers D&O) and Liability – came out of our meetings with City of Roswell officials – Access to the house and grounds first priority. Therefore, we need insurance. Also, Directors and Officers Liability insurance to indemnify us from liability. We are going to do events and fundraisers and serve alcohol. Jim Van Epps has offered to help us so we will check with him on this.
2. City of Roswell Updates (Katie Troline) – Has been collaborating with Dr. Sara Harwood. They have met with an arborist and several garden clubs and have received a lot of great input from them. Dr. Harwood submitted a grant request to the Garden Club of Georgia. Lee Dunn very excited about restoring a portion of the garden to the Neal Reid garden design. Chris Hastings and Jim van Epps will also be offering ideas. A five year plan will be developed for full garden restoration. We have specs for a tree survey and the city will coordinate getting that survey. Safety for the public is of primary concern and so some trees will need to come down. Katie is assembling all the reports that she is gathering and putting together all the estimates. Quotes completed for the GPR and waiting for approval. The preferred quote is from archeologists who will carefully document and preserve any remains and artifacts found. Atlanta Zoo will be coming to get the bamboo for elephants, giraffes, and gorillas. A press release is in draft form and will be going to the city for approval. Moving forward we want clear guidelines on which gardens will be designated Neil Reid Era gardens. Goal for all of us is to get the gardens open as soon as possible. Very important to clean up the ivy and trim boxwoods a little until they can be fully trimmed in February. Dead trees need to be cleared out, the barn fenced off and a barrier (perhaps) blocking access to unfinished areas for the initial opening. The October timeline will most likely be adjusted.

GA Trust and Historical society had an overall plan ten years ago and we have access to that and can be incorporated into our plan. Roswell Historical Society has the information on those companies that helped the with the Ramble effort.

Mimosa Hall will be included in a historic fabric event in November 2019 – FabricCon – FOM considered as host for fundraiser.

1. Recap of meeting with Sarah Winner. Sarah is preparing a comprehensive plan for all the historical properties owned by the City of Roswell. The properties cost a lot of money to operate and do not generate enough income to make them sustainable. She notes that the properties do not share the point-of-sale systems with their gift shops, etc.

Recap of meeting with Jeff Leatherman, Matt Tyser and Katie Troline representing the City of Roswell. The meeting was extremely positive and encouraging to the Friends of Mimosa Hall. We are focusing on the short term things we promised to do such as the roof and gardens.

Jeff said we would be given access to the building for fundraising activities. We need to get the COI, Certificate of Insurance. And we need to sign the MOU with the city. And the city needs the Certificate of Occupancy (COO).

Katie will do a tour for FOM board members and Friends.

1. We will develop a Master Plan that will include plans for different areas of the garden, i.e., Neil Reid, reflection garden and 4 gardens in the very far back, permanent Sculpture garden, rotating exhibit garden, herb garden, hosta garden, outdoor classroom, etc. A search will be conducted for a landscape architect to create this master plan. What is below ground and above ground will be considered. The financing for this Master Plan may be shared between the FOM and the city depending on the search. The timing for the planting of new plants will be taken into consideration and the Extension Service will be contacted.
2. Furnishings – Sherman painting and the fireplace screen for the original kitchen – FOM will procure these two items. Financing to be determined.

Historical documents and photos will be sent in advance to landscape architects before they tour the property.

5. Report from FOM Communications Director, Dr. Sara Harwood – (see written report)

Moisture and drainage issues will be resolved by new roof. Damage from the moisture and drainage will need to be repaired. Next priority will be restoring the shutters.

$1925 is our responsibility for the matching grant (less than anticipated).

Martin’s Landing and Brookfield Country Club will feature Mimosa Hall in their newsletter.

Lunch and Learn series will begin in September. Prospective speakers listed in Sara’s report.

John Dunwody arrived in Roswell in December 1838 (150 years ago).

Roswell Ghost Tour collaboration – city has an MOU for them to use all city sites

Outreach – Miss Mary’s Ice Cream Crankin

Wine Festival

Roots Festival

Santa photos – December 1

6. Committee Reports –

a. Michelle Slater (see report on events)

Painting at Board of Trade

We will work with Dr. Harwood on a letter for each board member to send out asking for funding. Goal: $30,000.

b. Community Outreach (Mike)

c. Historic Preservation (need a committee chair)

d. Marketing – website is current and working – people are signing up as members

e. Strategic Partnerships (Don) – we must focus on raising the money to get the net zero (solar roof) installed. We need a Business Plan and nice presentation to present to prospective funders.

f. Landscape & Gardens (Sara, Katie and Mike)

g. Aternative Energy (Kelly)

h. Strategic Planning (Gus)