

Historic Carter House Society Inc.

*Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2013*

Vickie Robinson, Chairman, called to order the meeting of Historic Carter House Society Inc (HCHS) held at 30325 Carter Cemetery Road, Springfield, LA at 4:10 PM.

Attendance: Vickie Robinson, Linda Simoneaux, Beverly Burgess, Shelly Simmons, Susan Calamia, Tammy Welsh, Bonnie Anderson, Carolyn Szabados and Ethel Baily.

Introduction of Board Members

Vickie introduced the board members. She advised that Sharon Lietzke has resigned at Secretary and this position will need to be filled along with an opening for Vice Chairman when Wanda Loupe resigned earlier this year. Elections will be handled at the end of the meeting.

Membership

Vickie advised that the 2013 membership total was at 31 members.

Pool House Rental

Vickie discussed the short term rental we had for the pool house. A lease was signed on a month to month basis for \$700 a month. They will repair the stairs in lieu of a down payment.

Quilt Trail

Vickie introduced Carolyn Szabados, the artist who created our Quilt Trail, and asked her to tell everyone about the Quilt Trail Association. The Quilt Trail began when a quilter created the first quilt trail board. Since then Quilt Trail signs have been created to identify various historic points through-out the United States. There is a Quilt Trail web site that identifies locations with Quilt Trail Signs. It's a great way to advertise for a little money. Carolyn said that our sign was the first one she has done. Everyone complimented her on the great job she did for us.

Financials

Linda handed out a copy of the financial to all present. At the end of November we have a total of \$7326.09.

Fund Raising

Vickie gave a recap of Fundraisers in 2013: Scavenger Hunt, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Flea Market Sales, Wine Pairing Dinner, Bunko, and Christmas Open House. It was pointed out that most of these raised less than \$1,000.00. Vickie asked for ideas for fund raisers next year and the ideas that were discussed are.

1. Art and Craft Show

We discussed the need to start out small and keep it to a limited type of art and crafts. We have contacts with Carolyn Szabados and Kim Zabbia from the Art Station in Ponchatoula.

2. Painting Classes

It was discussed the possibility that Carolyn could hold some painting classes at the Carter House.

3. Silent Auction and Wine Tasting

The Silent Auction and Wine Tasting was our original fundraiser and raised the second most money for the organization. Consideration should be given to doing this again and include people outside of Carter Plantation. The Chocolate Vine has indicated they would be glad to help with this fundraiser, especially since they can help acquiring the wine. This time a fee should be charged to offset costs for food/wine with all auction items being donated making profit for those items sold.

4. Cooking Classes

Ethel Bailey brought up the idea of cooking classes of some kind. It was pointed out that the kitchen in the Carter House is too small but it was suggested that perhaps we could work with Chef at the restaurant to hold this since they have portable cooking stations that can be moved around in the new facility across the street.

5. Bridal Shows

Last year we were too late to participate in the shows in this area. Shelly will check on upcoming shows and it was suggested that we try to work with Carter Plantation to hold one that we could participate in.

6. Golf Tournament

Vickie discussed the annual Golf Tournament and mentioned that she would like the CPCA to set the date early next year so we could seek out corporate sponsors. By having corporate sponsors they can help cover costs of items such as food, etc. She wants to approach Ferrara Fire Apparatus about being a sponsor since the CPCA donates a portion of the proceeds to the Springfield Fire Department.

Civil War Reenactment (this item was not on original Agenda)

The Civil War Reenactment had discussed possible moving to the site of the Carter House but Vickie pointed out there won't be as much room available for troops due to house construction nearby. A discussion has been held with the Civil War Reenactment group to hold a reenactment of the Battle of Blood River in 2015 since that is an anniversary year.

Grants

Vickie went over all the Grants applied for this year and the status of each: Amerigroup Foundation, Walmart, State of La., Home Depot, Entergy, American Express, Livingston Parish, and most were denied. We were successful in getting two. One was obtained through the Livingston Parish Grants Coordinator to connect the Carter House and Pool House to the Mo-Dad Water System. The second grant is a 50/50 grant we are receiving from the State to make repairs to the chimney/plaster damaged by water intrusion. Walmart is the only applicant not to respond to our Grant request but Vickie is still attempting to contact them.

2014 Budget

Vickie discussed all of the repairs that have been identified for the Carter House and next on the list will be the dormers; paint/repair the back side/left side of the house; and the Porte chere and its columns. The old quotes for all the work is approximately \$20,000.00 so this will be our goal to raise in 2014.

Election of Officers

Beverly discussed the openings on the board, Secretary and Vice Chairman, and what the job duties entailed. Shelly Simmons said she would be interested in volunteering to assume the Secretary position. Linda nominated Shelly Simmons and Vickie Robinson seconded. All approved. No one volunteered for the Vice Chairman position and that is still open. The board will prepare and send out an email in an attempt to solicit a volunteer for the position.

Other

Vickie thanked the CPCA for their help and generous donation from the funds raised at the annual golf tournament, the CDD for their support and confidence in our organization, HCHS past and present board members, and everyone who continues to volunteer to help. She also extended thanks to others who have helped, Charlie Robinson, Dave Anderson and Mike Simoneaux, for handling changing light bulbs, minor repairs, and electrical work at the Carter House/Pool House.

There were no further comments or questions so Vickie adjourned the meeting.