

## **Historic Carter House Society Inc.**

Meeting Minutes  
February 24, 2015

Vickie Robinson, Chairman, called to order the meeting of Historic Carter House Society Inc (HCHS) held at the Carter House, 30325 Carter Cemetery Road, Springfield, LA at 2:05 PM. Attendance: Vickie Robinson, Linda Simoneaux, & Beverly Burgess, Absent: Shelley Simmons due to work conflict.

Shelley Simmons was not present at the meeting and was not able to distribute the minutes of the November 16, 2014 meeting or the minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting held on December 14, 2014 so these minutes still need approval by the board.

Vickie Robinson reported that all the letters have been mailed to the list of photographers that are the popular or well-known photographers in this area. Beverly Burgess had mailed two groups of letter and the last group was mailed by Vickie.

Linda Simoneaux gave a Financial Report that was a draft for the year ending 2014 that showed Gross Income in the amount of \$37,977.81, Total Expenses in the amount of \$40,125.29 with a results of \$2,147.48. She also reported that our current bank balance at the end of 2014 was \$4,145.96.

Vickie Robinson gave a report on the status of restoration work saying all around the house has been completed repaired/painted except the end side on the left side of the house. This portion is mostly brick so there probably won't be much wood replacement. The bid from Ryder & Ryder included cost to clean, prime, paint, material and labor is \$2,350.00. The soffit and fascia cost for material and labor will be approximately \$950.00 unless something is found to be badly rotten once they get up there.

Linda Simoneaux gave a Financial Report for the Christmas Open House which was a total income of \$596.50 and that included donations, memberships, admission, raffle tickets, and gift sales. Our total expenses were \$214.37 so our profit including memberships was \$382.13 and not including memberships it was \$152.13. It was the consensus that this Christmas Open House was more successful than the one last year because we seem to have more people visit from Denham Springs and other areas.

Vickie Robinson had an estimate to paint the final part of the outside of the house. We will hold up on this work for now due to weather and funds.

At the Annual Membership meeting the position of Secretary was not filled due to Debbie Dufour declining to accept the position. She was nominated but it was the consensus of the group that she

should be contacted before voting her into the position to make sure she would accept. Shelley Simmons contacted Debbie Dufour about the position.

The board decided we should send out an email asking for someone to volunteer for the position. If we do not get any volunteers then we should contact some of our new members to see if we can get them to accept. Vickie Robinson will draft and send the emails.

The Annual Membership Drive was discussed and an email will be sent reminding people to renew their memberships and a separate email to those who were not members last year asking them to join. Vickie Robinson will draft and send the email. Linda Simoneaux reported that we had a total of \$300.00 in membership dues paid in 2014 and \$700.00 paid in 2015 for our 2015 Calendar Year Memberships. Vickie will send out Thank You letters to members who have joined and won't be sending out any more request to join due to people complaining that we were sending out too many request and pushing too hard.

A discussion was held about the Civil War Reenactment to be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015. This is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Blood River and a simplified reenactment of what happened that day should take place at the Carter House. Beverly Burgess will attempt to locate a confederate uniform for Lt. McDermott. She will also discuss the role of Judge Marcus Carter and Lt. McDermott being played by John Burgess and Mike Sharp. Beverly would like to get a wagon or some means to bring people back to the Blood River. Beverly also mentioned that John Burgess is concerned about Insurance. Vickie will check with the Insurance Company to see what a rider would cost for a special event (one time event). The information about the activities that took place on the day of the battle will be drafted by Vickie Robinson. The board will schedule a meeting with Denise Martin who is working with the Town of Springfield and their portion of the activities so we can have all activities coordinated.

On the afternoon of these activities an Open House will be held at the Carter House so we can have that counted as one of our required dates of holding an Open House.

The Livingston Convention & Visitors Bureau contacted Vickie Robinson to let her know the State Group Meeting will be held on March 17 and they want to use the Carter House for a cocktail hour. They would like for us to have volunteers dressed in period dress if possible and be able to give tours and answer questions about the house. Vickie Robinson will work with Jonathan Taylor for these arrangements.

Fund Raisers for 2015 were discussed and the group still wants to plan a Flea Market Sale since we already have sufficient items to sell. No date was set. Vickie Robinson announced the Annual

CPCA Golf Tournament is potentially set for May 11 and HCHS will assist as much as they can to acquire teams, sponsors, and volunteers for the day of the tournament.

Maintenance Items at Carter House & Pool House were reported on by Vickie Robinson and these items have been discussed at the CDD meetings. The Sewer connection for the washing machine is not hooked up to the Mo-Dad sewer line and the drain being used now is blocked somewhere. Mo-Dad came with the camera to locate the blockage and was able to tie the washing machine drain into the Mo-Dad sewer line so the problem is fixed.

Fixing the pond so it will hold water and have a more suitable appearance has been discussed at the CDD meetings and Vickie Robinson is trying to determine what might be the most economical solution.

The electric service to the Pool House is connected to the same meter as the Carter House and there is no way to disconnect the Pool House so this is not up to code. Vickie Robinson will obtain bids to run a separate service line to the Pool House and have a separate meter installed.

The New Website is under construction and should be up and running before long. Vickie Robinson is working with Mike Simoneaux on this. The CDD has agreed to pay for the HCHS portion and the website and the CDD and HCHS will have their sites together. The CPCA has opted to have a totally separate website and the company that will be developing/updating the website is Red Dragonfly.Promotions.

Since Shelley Simmons was not present at the meeting there was no update on Facebook given.

The following dates are activities scheduled at the Carter House in the next couple of months:

- March 10 – CPCA Board Meeting
- March 17 – Liv. Convention & Visitors Bureau host to State Group
- March 28 – Kayla Sagely Bridal Photos, will send form/deposit/insurance certificate
- April 4 – Susan Calamia – will send form/deposit
- April 14 – CPCA Board Meeting

No date was set for the next HCHS Meeting.

The meeting concluded and was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.