

Historic Carter House Society Inc.

Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2014
Carter House – 4:30 P.M.

Vickie Robinson, Chairman, called to order the Annual Meeting of Membership of the Historic Carter House Society Inc (HCHS) held at the Carter House, 30325 Carter Cemetery Road, Springfield, LA at 4:30 PM. The meeting was called to order by Vickie Robinson who welcomed all the members that were in attendance. Members in attendance were: Jan Pretus, Dorothy Sledge, Susan Calamia, Nancy Thorpe, and Linda Munding.

The officers were introduced as follows: Vickie Robinson, Chairman; Shelley Simmons, Secretary; Linda Simoneaux, Treasurer; and Beverly Burgess, Director – all were in attendance.

Vickie advised the group that the Membership Drive for 2015 would soon begin and she would draft an email to be sent to all 2014 members, previous members, and Carter Plantation Property Owners/Residents.

Linda Simoneaux gave a Financial Report for 2014 and the bank balance as of December 13, 2014 was \$3,545.11. For a re-cap of 2014 Financials Linda reported we had collected \$820.00 in membership dues during the year 2014 with some of the membership paying their dues in 2013 so their dues are not included in the \$820.00. For tax purposes the dues have to be reported as collected during that year. Also, she reported that since HCHS was organized an amount of over \$64,000.00 has been spent on restoration work on the Carter House. Linda also gave out copies of a Financial Statement to all the membership attending the meeting, copy attached.

Vickie Robinson led a discussion on suggested fundraising activities for the year 2015 as follows:

- Flea Market – we have plenty of items upstairs so it is a matter of organizing, pricing & setting a date for the sale. Vickie will check with flea market shop on Pumpkin Center to price out all the items we have.
- Golf Tournament – will be discussing the date and planning of the tournament in early 2015 in hopes to get started earlier. HCHS will offer to help as much as we can since we get a large portion of the funds raised.
- Silent Auction – the first year the organization existed a wine tasting and silent auction was held and even though a fee was not charged a profit was made since all the items auctioned were donated. If we do this again we should charge a fee in order to increase our profit.
- Christmas Open House – we didn't make very much profit but this is a good event for us to hold each year since we have to hold an open house for the public for 12 days each year since we accepted the grant from the State. Also, this is a good opportunity to show the house and possibly attract new members and get additional events scheduled by those viewing the house.

In addition the following fundraising activities were suggested and discussed by the membership in attendance:

- Hold a Wine Tasting and serve snacks to hold the cost down was suggested by Susan Calamia.
- Several people suggested holding a Ladies Luncheon at the Carter House with Old time dresses and fashion show. We would need to locate the clothes but Beverly said she could probably do that and the other thing would be to find models which we could probably get from our membership.

- Hold a Tea that is similar to the ones held at a Tea House on the North Shore.
- Hold an Easter Bunny breakfast or a Christmas with Santa breakfast. It was noted the people that attended the Flapjacks with Santa at Carter Plantation were disappointed so we could add this on to our Christmas Open House plans.

The status of the restoration work was covered by Vickie Robinson. She reported the only portion of the house that remains to be restored on the outside is the left side of the house. As soon as the board can determine that sufficient funds are available this work will be pursued. Vickie Robinson will contact the contractor to obtain a quote so the board can determine when the work can be scheduled.

Vickie Robinson reported that the organization needs to develop a schedule for holding open house dates since the requirement is to hold it open for 12 days a year. The discussion from the floor was positive about membership participation but they felt a Sunday afternoon would be the best time but it would be difficult to have volunteers available in the fall when football season starts.

A report on Facebook was given by Shelley Simmons and to date 435 people have liked HCHS. The floor was opened for nominations for office of Chairman with Vickie Robinson being nominated by Shelley Simmons and seconded by Susan Calamia and all were in favor for her to continue as Chairman. Shelley Simmons was nominated by Vickie Robinson for the position of Vice Chairman and seconded by Linda Simoneaux. All present voted yea to elect Shelley to the position of Vice Chairman. Linda Simoneaux was nominated by Jan Pretus and seconded by Dorothy Sledge for the position of Treasurer, and all present voted year to elect Linda to the position of Treasurer. Beverly Burgess will continue as a Director. The position of Secretary was not filled but Debbie Dufour was nominated from the floor, however, the membership felt it would be unfair to elect her to this position since she was not present so it was decided by the majority in attendance that this be brought to her in order to determine if she will accept the position. Shelley Simmons will draft an email to send to her asking her if she would accept the nomination. If she will not accept the nomination then it was suggested an email be drafted and sent to all the membership requesting that someone volunteer for the position.

Other Items Discussed: A new website is being developed and the CDD agreed to pay the cost of for the HCHS. The change will be that the CDD and HCHS will have their website together because the CPCA decided they wanted to have an independent website and not connected with but have links to move from their site to the CDD and HCHS sites.

Susan Calamia and Linda Simoneaux discussed the Memorial Tree for Frankie and said John Mundingger had suggested planting two Crape Myrtles in Island to replace the Oak that was removed. Linda suggested that the tree be installed around side of Carter House since Frankie was a big supporter/member of the HCHS. John had said he would talk to Lessley about his people installing tree and did want to point out there is no irrigation on CH Property so that would need to be taken into consideration.

A general discussion was held about holding a brick engraving sale in the future and place them in a designated memorial area or possibly the walkway by the old fountain area in the back (going out the sunroom). It was mentioned that this had been discussed by the HCHS board some time back when Wanda Loupe was on the board but it was decided we might not have enough people attracted to sell enough bricks to complete the walkway.

Vickie Robinson stated she would like to thank all the membership for the work done at the various fundraisers and especially the work on the Christmas Open House. She also pointed out the work that others have done to help around the house and those in particular were Dave Anderson, Mike Simoneaux, and Charlie Robinson who have all done various maintenance work to help around the house.

No further business was discussed so the meeting was adjourned by Vickie Robinson.