

CITY OF HAWTHORNE

COMMISSIONERS:

Eleanor Randall, Mayor
William Carlton, Vice Mayor
DeLoris Roberts
Harry Carter
Matthew Surrency

INTERIM CITY MANAGER:

Linda Rice Chapman
CITY CLERK:
LaKesha H. McGruder

INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY:

Audrie Harris

MINUTES

CITY COMMISSION BOARD & HAWTHORNE MUSEUM WORKSHOP SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

Commissioner Roberts called the workshop to order at 2:15PM. Board Present: Vice Mayor Carlton, Commissioner Roberts, Carter and Surrency. Staff Present: Interim City Manager Chapman and City Clerk McGruder.

Interim City Manager Chapman- Workshop was scheduled at the request of the museum volunteers to discuss the Museum and Scout House.

Bonita DeWilby- Group of citizens and volunteers would like to keep the museum open. Historically it was run by the HARC group throughout the years. Had a meeting with the Interim City Manager about 2-3 months ago. The City owns the building but HACF (formerly known as HARC) runs the museum. Ms. DeWilby read the proposal on what the Historical Society agrees to do. They would like to lease the building for \$1.00 per year for 30 years; they will open the museum to the public for normal business hours on Saturday's from 10:00AM-2:00PM; a number will be posted to call to schedule a tour; the Historical Society will maintain the historical documents and keep the building in good condition; the building may be used for special meetings, club meetings, weddings, etc; Historical Society will pay the dues associated with the Florida Association of Museums; the City may request to inspect the museum at any time to pursue grants; and the Historical Society will carry liability insurance. In return the Historical Society is asking the City of Hawthorne to do the following: Pay the electric, water, sewer, general insurance, and phone and security system costs associated with the building; maintain the grounds and make any necessary repairs to the building.

Jane Segal- They have had problems with volunteers donating time to run the museum, but they have had over 3 thousand people visit the museum since the museum was opened. The Historical Society has an account with money in it but the City wants us to pay all the utilities but she don't know how long they can do that. In 1993 the City received a grant for the museum. The City signed the papers for the grant. In

● Page 2

1997 HARC took over the museum because the City did not want to deal with it anymore.

Commissioner Roberts- Commended staff and the Museum volunteers and gave a brief history of the church the museum now resides in and agrees it is a great asset to Hawthorne but not enough people know it's here.

Heather Surrency- Museum needs general liability insurance but the funds don't support the needs.

Jane Segal- The account set up at the bank is Historical Society money but it's under the City of Hawthorne tax id.

Interim City Manager Chapman- It's illegal to use the City's tax id. If you go under the HACF you can get your own tax id.

Commissioner Surrency- \$1.00 per year lease sounds good to him. If they join the HACF then HACF should hold the lease agreement. Agree the City should maintain the grounds, but the utilities should be paid by the one leasing the building. Maybe the City can look into getting grants to help with the operations of the building.

Interim City Manager Chapman- It's easy to get grants for additions but hard to get grants for operational costs.

Vice Mayor Carlton arrived.

Jane Segal- City received the grant for the museum and believe the City should be responsible for paying the utilities because they own the building.

Interim City Manager Chapman- Legally the City can not partner with the museum until certain things are done. The City may consider helping with lights, water and sewer, but the phone and alarm we can not. The City of Hawthorne has spent over \$10 thousand dollars on utilities for the museum.

Heather Surrency- City of Hawthorne owns the building and the museum is giving the City equity. The City should be responsible for utilities and the upkeep.

Vivian Wagner- If the City will refuse to pay and help the museum then more than likely they will refuse to help with the Scout House.

● Page 3

Memory Stewart- HACF is trying to guard its money because they will not have enough money to support the museum. As an observer and someone that has worked in Hawthorne for 10 years. I believe the museum should look into recruiting new volunteers. The library website can help advertise the museum if needed. Believes the City should help the museum in some way until the museum gets up and running.

Commissioner Surrency- Historical Society and City can partner together to do fundraisers to raise money to help support the museum generate revenue. It may take a couple of years to get up and running so maybe the City can help with the utilities over the next few years. Once the museum raise enough funds or get grants, then the museum can pay its own utilities.

Commissioner Roberts- City is in the process of getting better organized but agree with Commissioner Surrency that we should look into fundraisers. Commissioners cannot vote but will put it on the next agenda.

Commissioner Roberts asked Vice Mayor Carlton if he had something to say. He replied no.

Commissioner Carter- Suggest putting it on the agenda as 2 separate items. Museum and Scout House.

Interim City Manger Chapman- Code Officer Al Davis cited the Scout House as being condemned.

Richard Moore- Has been working on the Scout House over a year and it was evaluated by the Code Officer. Volunteers are interested in bringing the Scout House into service for workshops, arts and crafts classes, etc. Maybe even having additional historical things in there for visitors to look at. Proposed to the City to fix the roof to help it become salvageable. Received estimates from different contractors to bring the Scout House up to code. Authorized Construction gave a quote of \$19, 141.71. This quote does not include plumbing or electrical; Worley Construction gave a quote of \$13,800.00 but it does not include the porch. The roof leaks so he also got bids to repair the roof. Whitton Roofing estimated the roof repairs to be \$7,500. Zucc's Handyman estimated the roof repairs at \$1,400 but he will paint and reseal the roof with roof coating to sustain it for a few years. To repair the windows with plex-a-glass he received a quote for \$3,500.00. Mr. Moore described the plans of the Scout House to bring it into code compliance. Mr. Moore also asked the Commission Board to decide what they want to do with the building. It's a great building in great

● Page 4

structural condition. It can be a useful building and add value to the property. The volunteers was enthused until the City turned their backs on us less than a year ago. It's very cheap to repair and it will bring something back to the City.

Bonita DeWillby- The idea of tearing down the building is not good. We should restore and preserve our old buildings. That's what makes the City beautiful. The building has a history with the City.

Richard Moore- To fix the building and bring it into code compliance, fix the electrical and plumbing will be roughly \$32 thousand dollars.

Commissioner Surrency- Agree we should fix it up. It has a solid wood foundation but at the same time we need to develop a timeframe and consider doing a lease agreement with the Scout House also.

Commissioner Roberts- Need to check with Al Davis about code violations. Commissioners need to decide on what we want to do with the building. Hawthorne is growing and its historical sites are important to the City. Thank you for volunteering at the Museum and Scout House.

The Workshop was adjourned at 3:20PM.

The minutes of the workshop are submitted for approval.

LaKesha H. McGruder, City Clerk

Eleanor Randall, Mayor