

MINUTES
PAGE COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL
WAR COMMITTEE
JANUARY 15, 2009
REGULAR MEETING

Citizens Present

Rod Graves – Luray Caverns Corporation
Sharon Sampsell – Page County Department of Recreation
Karen Riddle – Luray/Page County Chamber of Commerce
Emily Campbell – Luray/Page County Chamber of Commerce
Charles Butler – Attorney
Betty Karol Wilson – New Market Walking Tours
Terry Heder – Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation
Gary Drum – Appalachian Outdoors Adventures
Nancy Sottasonti – Luray/Page County Tourism Council

Call to Order

Karen Riddle, President of the Luray/Page Chamber of Commerce called the first meeting of the newly formed Page County Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Committee to order at 12:00 noon on January 15, 2009 at “A Moment to Remember” in Luray.

Discussion

Karen Riddle welcomed all in attendance and informed those present of the reason for the meeting and the formation of this committee. After introductions of those present she summarized the Commissions letter detailing the 150th Anniversary and its purpose and intent for the Commonwealth of Virginia and local community involvement.

A roundtable discussion proceeded:

Rod Graves, Vice President of the Luray Caverns Corporation announcing the scheduled “Reenactment of the Third Winchester” to be held on September 11-13th, 2009. This event will feature a living history exhibit with Civil War impersonators and special events.

Sharon Sampsell advised that the official application to the Commission for the committee needed to be sent in. It was agreed by all that she could complete and send in the application to the Commission. She was selected as the official liaison to represent the committee to the Commission.

Discussion continued with the group for ideas for events, etc. to commemorate the 150th anniversary such as: downtown Luray walking tour, biking tour, river tour; driving tour with children’s coloring book. Gary Drum discussed his already planned Cycling tour.

The topic of the Virginia of the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Marketing Grant Program was discussed. It was decided that Sharon Sampsell and Betty Karol Wilson would work on the grant. Rod Graves recommended that the grant request be for two additional Civil War Trails Markers to be placed at the Page County Courthouse and Luray Caverns depicting the 1962 story of how the County's public records were removed from the Courthouse and stored in Ruffner's Cave in fear that the Courthouse would be burned by invading troops. The committee agreed that markers were the right choice for the marketing grant application. The Luray/Page County Chamber of Commerce, the County of Page and the Luray Caverns Corporation agreed to be the three financial partners for the matching grant at \$900 each.

Rod Graves offered to have the IT person at Luray Caverns develop a web site for the committee to announce upcoming events and activities planned for Page County.

The committee discussed a tag line to use for marketing the Sesquicentennial in Page County, after many suggestions and Civil War stories being told by Rod Graves and Chuck Butler, the Committee agreed on the slogan "Discover Page County's Unknown Stories".

Committee Officers Action:

Sharon Sampsell and Rod Graves suggested that the committee needed to establish officers and committees in order to effectively run future meetings and activities. The following action was unanimously decided:

Sharon Sampsell – Liaison to the State/Secretary
Rod Graves – Chairman

Committees:

Grants: Sharon Sampsell and Betty Karol Wilson

History & Education: Rod Graves, Charles Butler, Gary Drum & Terry Heder

Events & Activities: Rod Graves, Karen Riddle, Sharon Sampsell & Gary Drum

Marketing & Tourism: Betty Karol Wilson, Karen Riddle, Nancy Sottosanti & Sharon Sampsell

Closing:

Sharon Sampsell reminded the committee that time was of the essence in writing the marketing grant in that the grant deadline was March 17, 2009; and that we needed to determine our next meeting date, time and location. It was agreed to meet on February 19, 2009 at 11:00 PM at the Board of Supervisors Room at the County Court House.

Rod Graves, newly appointed Chairman, thanked everyone for attending. Karen Riddle thanked everyone for attending and expressed what an exciting time this was for Page County. Mr. Graves closed the meeting at 1:45 PM.

