

MINUTES
PAGE COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL
WAR COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 19, 2009
REGULAR MEETING

Members Present

Rod Graves – Luray Caverns Corporation - Chairman
Sharon Sampsell – Page County Department of Recreation – Liaison and Secretary
Art Candenquist – Summers/Knoetz Camp of Confederate Veterans
Emily Campbell – Luray Page Chamber of Commerce
Terry Heder – Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation
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Call to Order

Rod Graves, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM on October 29, 2009 at the Luray Caverns “Stalactite Café”.

Adoption of Agenda

The meeting agenda was adopted.

Consent Agenda

The minutes of the September meeting were approved with a motion by Art Candenquist and 2nd by Shirley Hartman.

Old Business

Donation to Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation from the Luray Caverns Corporation: Rod Graves informed the committee that the Luray Caverns had presented a check in the amount of \$2,000, from funds received from the Third Winchester Reenactment, to the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation. He added that he hoped that the Page News and Courier would print a short article about the donation in hopes to encourage other partnerships throughout the area.

Art Candenquist added that Holtzman's Oil funded the restoration of the Summers-Koontz Monument.

Rod expressed his gratitude for to the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Terry Heder and all involved with helping with the Third Winchester Reenactment and Living History Encampment

BB&T and Seed Money/Future Expenditures/Budget: Rod Graves is in conversations with John Graves regarding a donation to the committee. He is not sure if the “Wishing Well” donations will affect this donation.

VTC Marketing Grant: Sharon Sampsell distributed copies of the Draft of the VTC Marketing Grant for review. She advised that her deadline to have the application

completed and mailed would be Wednesday, October 28th; in that the deadline to be received in Richmond was Tuesday, November 3. Art Candenuist suggested that the application be mailed overnight as November 3 was Election Day and some facilities may be closed. She specifically needed marketing information that was to be provided by John Shaffer and Rod Graves from the Luray Caverns Corporation. Rod advised that he would meet with Mr. Shaffer and have that information to Sharon by Friday, November 23. He also advised that he was adamant about redesigning the cover for better exposure. He, along with Sharon Sampsell and John Shaffer will explore the redesign options. Sharon added that the final version of the brochure would not have to be ready until it was time to go to print (based on receiving the grant funds).

Peter Borst Commemoration and Interpretation: The committee discussed the recent conversations surrounding the suggestion of having living history interpreters at the proposed April 17, 2010 Civil War Days and Bus Excursion in Commemoration of the 149th Anniversary of Virginia's Secession. The committee members in attendance agreed that they thought this was an excellent idea. Details of the specific sites to have interpreters would be decided at a later date; however sites discussed were Chapman/Ruffner House (The Fighting Chapman Brothers), Red Church (John Cline), a battalion at the Greenway site with Ken Wilt's 35th, the Bethany Veney story, etc. Art Candenuist would check with re-enactors/interpreters that he knows as well as with Paula Johnson of Fauquier County.

A round table discussion proceeded with ideas about marketing, vendors, etc.

SVBF Partnership with Luray Caverns and Dovetailing with Sesquicentennial: Terry Heder added that Denman Zirkle (SVBF Executive Director) is looking at partnerships throughout the Shenandoah Valley region and will keep Rod informed of media exposure

Rod informed the committee that he had had conversation with Mr. Zirkle advising him that John Graves, President of the Luray Caverns Corporation had approved "Wishing Well" donations for a one-year period.

Kiosk and Possibilities with Sesquicentennial Interpretation at LVMG: Rod Graves and Terry Heder discussed the status of the kiosk at Luray Caverns. Terry and the SVBF are working on the final design and content and hope to have all ready by November. Rod informed the committee that there would be a designated location within the Luray Valley Museum for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and the Sesquicentennial. Terry reiterated that it was important for all (SVBF, LDI and Chamber of commerce) to have a harmonious design.

Web Page: Sharon Sampsell advised the committee that she had checked with the county's IT director for a recommendation for a free website. The director advised that perhaps Kenny Lawson would do a site for free. Sharon has looked into several free sites on line and has obtained a site address at Yola of www.pagecountyinthecivilwar.yolasite.com. She will review free sites more and advise the committee of her findings.

Rod Graves suggested that perhaps the committee should have a Facebook page and recommended calling his sister Cornelia (804-252-8838) to discuss as she maintains the Luray Caverns Facebook page.

Next Meeting: Rod Graves announced that he would be out of the country beginning October 30 to November 9th. It was agreed to have the next meeting on Monday, November 16 at 11:00 am at the Caverns Restaurant. The agenda for discussion would be the April 17 Commemoration and Bus Excursion.

Closing

Rod Graves adjourned the meeting at 1:00 PM.