

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

Citizens Present

Rod Graves – Luray Caverns Corporation - Chairman
Sharon Sampsell – Page County Department of Recreation – Liaison and Secretary
Karen Riddle – Luray/Page County Chamber of Commerce
Terry Heder – Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation
Gary Drum – Appalachian Outdoors Adventures

Call to Order

Rod Graves, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:00 am on March 19, 2009 at the Luray Caverns “Stalactite Café”.

Old Business

Rod Graves thanked Sharon Sampsell for her work on the Virginia Tourism Marketing Grant (for two Trails markers) and for those who helped with narrative reviews, etc. Sharon Sampsell announced that our grant application has been confirmed received in Richmond on 3/14. Mr. Graves indicated that he was very optimistic about the approval of our grant and that it was priority that the graphics and verbiage be decided upon for the Trails markers. He reviewed some of the ideas that the “markers Committee” (Rod Graves, Chuck Butler & Sharon Sampsell) had discussed: slave abscond document, wagon image, military image, Bortz image, Hunter image, map and/or Harpers Weekly Magazine article of 1854 about Luray Cave and draft verbiage. Those present agreed that this needed to be done as soon as possible. Rod and Sharon will look at their calendars, with Chuck, and meet again soon.

Discussion

Rod Graves informed the committee that he was offering the kiosk at the caverns to be used by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation, for maps of Civil War Trails markers, etc. or any type of information regarding the Civil War in Page County/Valley. He also added that he would like to offer the same to the Luray Downtown Imitative, etc. Terry Heder thought this was a great idea and emphasized that Page County was the “hub of the wheel” for Valley campaigns. This kiosk could play a vital role in telling the story that involved the Valley cluster. He also added that the kiosk would serve as a message board of what was going on with the Sesquicentennial.

Rod Graves informed us that he had talked with Jack Ackerly about talking to Cheryl Jackson about the Cavern’s project of the traveling interpretive program. Sharon Sampsell advised Rod that there were grants available from the National Endowment for the Arts for such historical programs that would reach into otherwise unreachable areas. A copy of the grant information was provided to Rod.

Karen Riddle briefed the committee on information regarding the geo cache for sites. Rod and Terry will also discuss this with John Schaffer. Gary Drum indicated that additional information can be found at geocache.com.

Rod Graves discussed the availability of web presence regarding the Sesquicentennial and other Valley Civil War information through web presence at the Luray Valley Museum and Gardens and Luray Caverns websites. He referred Terry Heder and the SVBF to Chad Painter (webmaster for the Caverns site) at 540-860-1170. Terry indicated that the SVBF is working on a separate site for the Sesquicentennial that can be linked from the SVBF site.

Terry Heder updated us about the Interruptive Planning Workshop that he and Rod attended on 3/21. He added that it was a very impressive workshop and that all in attendance gained valuable tools. He added that the State Sesquicentennial Commission was pushing the 4/29 conference in Richmond and reminded us that the Valley should make a key leadership role at this conference (“America on the Eve of Civil War.”) Terry also reminded us that we should keep our information on the “Then and Now” site updated. He said that a Google map will be added. He said that the regional long term planning for the Sesquicentennial was looking good, especially for 2011 and 2012 and that this was our time to make a mark.

Terry Heder shared some exciting news about a special event to be held in Winchester on 6/27, right after the John Brown kick off event on 6/25-6/26 at Harpers Ferry. He said that Cheryl Jackson, Bud Robertson and others would be in attendance and that local committees were being invited to talk. We all agreed that we would be in attendance. The event is scheduled for 6/27 at 10:00 AM at Abram’s Delight with lunch to follow at Jordon Springs with a tour of historic sites. He encouraged us to develop a Press Kit of Page County events/information to present at this event. Further discussion on what to include in the press kit continued.

Terry Heder briefed us on the SVBF grant application, deadline of 4/17. Sharon Sampsell said that she would be glad to work on the grant but the committee needed to decide what they wanted the project to be. She also indicated that we did not have a lot of time in which to make the decision.

Rod reminded all of the re-enactment scheduled in September and indicated that he had received great response from re-enactors and others (cavalry/artillery, etc.).

Rod indicated that we needed to contact Robert Moore about being on our local Committee. He also stated that the design for the proposed two new civil war markers needed to be confirmed soon. He stated that he would be out of the country the entire month of April.

Closing

The committee decided to meet again on May 21 at 11:00 am at the same location. Mr. Graves thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 12:45 PM.