

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

Members 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
Art Candenuist – Summers/Knootz Camp of Confederate Veterans
Terry Heder – Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation
Emily Campbell – Luray/Page County Chamber of Commerce
Gary Drum – Appalachian Outdoors Adventures

Call to Order

Rod Graves, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM on June 15, 2009 at the Luray Caverns “Stalactite Café”.

The agenda was adopted with a motion by Art Candenuist, seconded by Karen Riddle.

The minutes of the May 21, 2009 regular meeting were approved. Motion by Art Candenuist, seconded by Karen Riddle.

Old Business

Civil War Trails Markers Grant Rewrite: It was agreed that the committee would rewrite our grant application based on suggestions made by the grant review committee. Terry Heder informed us that the 2nd Grant Round would probably be in late summer or early fall and that Steve Galyean is available at the state level to help in any way. He also stated that the format will not change however the grant request amount has been increased to \$5,000. Rod and Terry suggested a conference call with Mr. Galyean and Sharon to discuss our best options with the rewrite. Sharon also added that she will be in communication with Susie Hill from Shenandoah County who did receive a grant for markers in the 1st round.

Regional Education Committee: Terry Heder brought up about the formation of a Regional Education Committee. Sharon indicated that she would be willing to serve on that committee. Terry will update her as information is available.

Marketing//Tourism: Terry briefly discussed marketing and tourism and the importance of knowing what is going on in each locality. Sharon mentioned the Page County Newsletter she is working on and how that can be a tool to interconnect with other localities. The committee agreed and suggested that our newsletter be send to the Luray Downtown Initiative and other preservation groups, including other regional localities.

Treasurer/Checking Account: Art Candenquist once again brought up the need to decide how we are going to handle and funds that we may receive and the need to set up a checking account. She suggested BB&T because they are also located in Shenandoah County (his home). Terry Heder suggested using one of our existing non-profit partners. Karen Riddle stated that she would need permission from her Board. Sharon Sampsell stated that she thought it was unlikely that it could be done through the County due to the way funds are handled at the end of the fiscal year (not carried over). The Committee asked her to check with the C. R. Suddith, Page County Treasurer.

Regional Kick-Off Event: Terry Heder stated that the regional kick-off event on June 26 is a tremendous opportunity for Shenandoah Valley localities. This will be a big press event with travel writers, a FAM tour and a mixed media of local press. All media will be receiving press packets from localities and he encourages the committee to include Sesquicentennial Fact Sheet, Story Ideas, The SVBF and the Winchester-Frederick County Tourism are hopeful for big attendance; with speakers to include Dr. James “ Bud” Robertson, Cheryl Jackson, Richard Lewis and Irvin Hess. There will also be a luncheon (2 members to represent committee). He is encouraging the local committees to present a unified front.

Rededication of Summers-Koontz Monument: Art and Terry reminded all that the rededication of the Summer-Koontz Monument will be on June 26 at 11:00 AM. Rod will attend. Art added that 2 decedents of the Confederate Soldiers will be in attendance and that there will be a ceremony at the church, with placement of wreaths at the monument after. Art also added that all materials to renovate the monument were donated.

New Business

Monuments (added to agenda):Rod brought up for discussion the deteriorating state of our county’s monuments including the 2 Confederate Monuments and the Massanutten Monuments. Art suggested that perhaps we should focus grant efforts on restoring, repairing, cleaning these; or perhaps seek donations to do so. Gary Drum indicated that we need to be careful how we approached seeking funds from private individuals regarding the Confederate Monuments and that we should use a broad-based approach.

Driving Brochure: Sharon distributed copies of the latest version of the Driving Brochure for review along with a sample map designed by the Page County GIS Department. The committee seemed pleased with the results and felt that this project would be very positive for local residents and visitors alike. Sharon indicated that the final version would be in a format that would follow the map to each site. Sharon suggested that we should probably get permission from the owners of Aventine to include their home in the Driving Tour brochure. She also said that we had enough locations in Luray that we could easily create a Luray Walking tour as well.

3rd Winchester Reenactment: Rod advised that all is looking good for the reenactment on Sept. 11-13. Sharon updated the committee on conversations with Donna Whitley-Smith at the school board in granting permission for all 4th, 5th and 11th to attend the **Civil War Camp** sponsored by the Sesqui Committee and the PC Rec Dept. on Sept. 11. Rod asked Sharon to contact Jeremy Hilliard to see if he would be a guide for the school groups.

Discussion

Terry Heder reminded the entire next group meeting at the New Market Town Hall on Wednesday, 6/17 at 2:00 PM.

Art Chadenquist suggested an idea to provide event information in the Civil War News calendar. He will handle this. He also suggested that starting in November we have a blurb in the Page News regarding what happened in the Civil War (Page County) 150 years ago today, etc. All were very excited about this idea! He will contact Doris Judy at the PNC to discuss. He also added that Francis Menefee of the United Daughters of Confederate Veterans would like to be on our committee. All agreed that she would be welcomed to the committee.

Rod Graves announced that the next meeting date would be on Monday, July 20th at 11:00 at the same location. Karen Riddle expressed her concerns with our meetings lasting so long (2 hours) and that we should consider fine tuning our discussions so that the meetings were shorter and more people would be able to stay for the entire meeting. Sharon agreed that a 2 hour meeting was sometimes tough with a tight schedule.

Closing

Rod Graves adjourned the meeting at 1:06 PM