

January 31, 2023

7:00-8:45 PM

Meeting of COMO Preservation

Columbia Public Library

Friends Room

I. Call to order by Dianna O'Brien

The sign-in sheet was passed around and the following were present: Morgan McNally, Janice DeRosier, Pamela Jones, Debby Cook, Chris Creasy, Dale L. Wilcox, Nina Sappington, Elena Vega, Jodie Jackson Jr., Timothy D. Dollens, Enola Riann White, Matt Fetterly, Chris Campbell, Tanner Ott, Nancy Laskaris, George Laskaris, Jane Brotemarkle, Jeff Brotemarkle, Dennis Fitzgerald, Trevor Harris, Deanna Wasman, Julie Anne Plax, Dan Viets and Dianna O'Brien.

Dianna announced new events since our last meeting. COMOPreservation.com website launched Dec. 2022, it includes a beautiful calendar, Matt is doing the Columbia history blog, COMO 365! The speaker for our Feb. 21 meeting will be Dana Bocke presenting information about historic cemeteries. Speaker for the Mar. 21 will be Deb Sheals discussing the difference between local historic districts and National historic districts.

II. Our presenter was Barbara Horrell speaking on the African American Heritage Trail. (Brochure handed out.) African American Heritage Trail area was NW of Broadway and identifies black-owned businesses up to 1959-1960. Sharp End was the first project. Sharp End was torn down in 1950. The black community had doctors, churches and all kinds of businesses. St. Luke's Church was where the Post Office is now. Some of the stones from St. Luke's were used in the First Christian Church. The Tribune Building is where the Vess Bottling Building was located. The Tiger Theater became a nightclub after 9:00. Nora Stewart nursery was at Ash and 5th. Monte's Restaurant was a BBQ that served blacks and whites. 5th and Park was where the elite black doctors and lawyers were located. When Dr. Moore died his home was made into a nursing home. Along 5th and Park was the African St. Paul Church. At Park & Providence were the Coleman properties. The black businessmen with money were Chase, Coleman, John Lang Sr. and Noble. Noble paper company was at Park and 4th.

Fred Douglass School was the black school. They call it Frederick Douglass now, but it was called Fred Douglass originally. Across from the swimming pool was the 3rd Street Market a black-owned food store. The Blue & White Café was also at 3rd and Market. Harvey House, owned by Lee Harvey, was like in Green Book, a place for black entertainers to stay on the 3rd floor. Dr. McCallister was Columbia's only black dentist. Miss Trubie's Market served blacks, she knew everyone. Henry Kirklin was born a slave and became the 1st black teacher at the University College of Agriculture. Creasy Springs ran through the Kirklin property and ran to Flat Branch. John Lang Sr. was a free black man from Louisiana. He ran the first grocery store and the first meat market in Columbia. During the Civil War he sold to both Union and Confederates.

Along Providence & Ash other black doctors, Dr. Reynolds and Dr. Wiggins practiced. Mrs. Wiggins was a teacher at Douglass for many years. Mr. McQuitty owned the barbershop. The shotgun house now at the Boone History & Culture Center was black-owned. The McKinney Building next to 2nd Baptist Church was a cafeteria and dance hall. It was open to blacks on Friday nights and whites on Saturday nights.

Organizers wrote this African American Heritage, so black history would be known. 8th grade classes do the heritage tour. In 1959-1960 urban renewal began in Columbia. Annie Fisher's 23-room house was torn down. The Armory is now located on the Fisher site. All around Jeff Jr. High School used to be black homes. Walt's Bike Shop area was black homes. Miles Manor was sold to blacks for homes. Lang Dairy was about where Hinkson Trail Bridge is by old Eastgate IGA, across from Stephen's Lake Park. "Columbia changes, but it doesn't change for us."

Chris Campbell has information on the price of Autocast.

III. Minutes approved.

IV. Budget handout.

Dee is and unsung hero. She did a post card brochure with an historic photo on one side and COMO Preservation info on the other!

We need a presence at a program at the library Feb. 11, Researching Your Home's History presented by Deb Sheals.

V. Team Reports

Advocacy Team- Trevor is monitoring Master Plans of University, Columbia College, Stephens along with other cities. Columbia College has 20-25 houses in St. Frances House block. Some properties have been broken into and fires started.

Dennis is a liaison with the Historic Preservation Commission. He gets the heads up before things happen. The last meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission OK'd the demolition of 3 sites.

-612 Oak St. – 1960 house R-1 zoning.

-200 E. Nifong Blvd. – Lutz Barbecue, a 1993 building.

-1006 Eastwood Circle- 1960 house R-1 zoning.

7 properties were recognized as historic properties. In March or April they will receive plaques.

Tours Team

Advocacy oriented. Want to do 1 tour in each mode: walk, bike, motor tour.

Dianna- Walking tour of historic theatres.

Historic schools.

Elena- Driving tour. Tours could be revenue generators.

Restoration Team- (formerly Sustainability Team)

Elena- Restoration is key.

1. Create a list of Arts & Crafts people. Include disclaimer.

2. Encourage classes like Bob Yapp's school to teach craftsmen and artisans.

3. Salvage. Tour salvage store in Jeff City. They have had a store for 30 years.

Work with Historic Preservation Commission- using their storage facility.

VI. Get Involved! Handout

See what volunteer opportunities you are most interested in.

Dee- brochure.

Dianna- movie theatre tour.

Dee wants to do and interactive timeline, create FAQ's to answer common questions.

-Can I put a new bathroom in and old house?

-Can I paint my shutters?

QR Project- information on QR Code, stick it on a building.

VII. New Business

Vote to confirm our Mission Statement.

“Our Mission is to preserve the historic architecture of Columbia, Missouri.”

Mission Statement – Approved.

Vote to choose our Vision Statement.

Vision Statement B: “COMO Preservation is dedicated to promoting the awareness, appreciation and preservation of our historic properties, neighborhoods and landscapes through education, advocacy and restoration.”

Vision Statement B - Approved.

Our next meeting: 7 PM February 21, 2023 in the Friends Room at the Columbia Public Library.