

Murray City History Advisory Board  
Minutes for November 17, 2021

Attendance: Rebecca Santa Cruz, Mildred Horton, Lynette Lloyd, Wendy Parsons Baker, Laurel Shepard, Janice Blanchard, Laurie Densley

Staff: Lori Edmunds, Katie Lindquist, Rowan Coates

Excused: Wendy Parsons Baker

I. Minutes for October 27, 2021 were passed as written with amendments.

II. Board Reports –

- Rebecca said that she had ordered both books from the Smithsonian regarding war letters. She asked Katie about her assignment and was told Rowan will be putting together a plan for her to review. She said that during her research she told us that they had an event around their war letter books that (the Smithsonian had donated their letters to Chapman University because they have a huge library) as a fundraiser and could correlate with Veterans Day and collaborate with the arts board to provide musicians for the evening. Katie said we had some sheet music related to WWII in our collection. The Murray Journal had a story about two Pearl Harbor navy guys which Laurie Densley was the source of the story. One of the soldiers was her uncle named Brent Erickson. Laurie said she may have letters and told us about her uncle that was MIA during the bombing at Pearl Harbor because he was in the machine shop. He was able to fill out a card stating he was safe and sent it to his family. It was Christmas Day and the mailman saw it at the post office and delivered to his mother on Christmas! They had the letter that was in the old home on Anderson Lane the new owner of the home told Laurie's father that he had some items in the attic and wanted him to come and get it. Her father went to the home and the new owner wanted Laurie's father to pay to get the items back which her father declined to do. Unfortunately, she does not have the letter/note now but the board encouraged her to write this story. Preserve that story. Laurie will ask her aunt if by chance she has the letter. Rebecca reminded the board that we wanted both letters and stories from the soldiers. Rebecca wondered if this would be an exhibit could be a rotating exhibit when the mansion opens with the museum.

Katie reported that she went to the Senior Center and passed out forms about the war information. One of the patrons of the Senior Center worked on the home front with those of the war. She has a spreadsheet of those that wanted to share their stories. Katie has been looking at the Murray Memories page for people and their stories. She said the next step was to set up interviews with them. She asked Rebecca to create a questionnaire for them. She asked Laurie if she would like to conduct the interviews and the Senior Center has donated their building to hold these interviews. Rebecca wondered if we wanted to extend the boundaries outside of Murray as the physical boundaries have been changed. All agreed. Katie gave the board an assignment to find out which of their family members were in the wars. Rebecca shared a story about her grandmother that sent 40 boxes of clothes to Denmark. Denmark sent her a slather for her efforts as they thought she may

have lived a privileged life, which she did not. Rebecca will think about donating to the museum. She said her brother had traveled to Demark looking for the family and asked a man at the inn if he knew who a man in a photograph was and the man said, yes, that is me. And talked about all those packages that Rebecca's grandma had sent. Laurie asked if when she writes up the stories she is told, if she should include pictures and Rebecca said yes. Lori said that since Rebecca is formatting questions, and Laurie is interviewing the people, perhaps Janis could coordinate the interviews working with Laurie's schedule. Janis agreed. Laurie asked about her homework assignment and Rebecca said we had planned to put a book together with the letter information. Rowan said she and Katie would be glad to write the information up for the book. Katie said this was the very beginning of the project. Lori reminded Katie that the book was a great idea for a grant.

III. Citizen Comment – There was no citizen comments.

IV. Staff Reports

- Museum update: They have finished 95% of the documents. She and Rowan will finish by the end of the year. Rowan did an online artifact training. She reminded the board about the Murray City Incorporation exhibit at City Hall in the Resident on Display case. It will be coming down on November 29, and the annual Candy Display will go into the case.
- Senior Center legacy update – Rebecca said Katie had already talked about this.
- Cemetery Headstone Care – Lori told the board she had contacted the woman that was holding the workshop and said she would be contacting Lori in the spring and Lori will let the board know. Laurel said she belonged to the Mt. Moriah Cemetery Association in Philadelphia that went bankrupt 20 years ago and the cemetery had not been cared for for several years. She said parts were closed due to overgrown conditions which the City is trying to take care of now. There is one family that goes to the cemetery weekly with a tripod to resituate the headstones. 200 acre cemetery. Murray cemetery is in great shape. When we learn about headstone care, we can put a story in the Journal and share with our residents.
- Mansion update: Lori told the board the paperwork for the stairs and the windows has been finished. The stairs should be starting soon, and the windows started today. And we are still working on the plans for addition to the addition.  
The theater – we have chosen a fundraising company and is in the process of choosing an architect. She said the City has \$2 million set aside and with the county funding of \$3.5 million, we are at about halfway for the needed funds.

Accessions:

Katie showed some random pictures she found at the museum. Laurie and Laurel said they were of the Salt Lake County Fairground that used to be here in place of the County Ice Rink. Katie asked if these pictures should be part of our collection and all agreed. Lori will see if she has any pictures of her husband Dean that used to ride in the rodeo there.

Rowan showed an image of a Radio from 1927 that someone sent to the Museum as a possible accession. The radio doesn't have much to do with Murray since the radio company is in Philadelphia and the Murray resident that the radio was purchased from doesn't seem to have a lot of connection to Murray city. The board decided not to accession the radio but to make it a resource since the radio is in working condition.

Rebecca adjourned the meeting until January 26, 2022