Partnership sub-committee Minutes - June 7, 2023

Attendance: Kathy Paulsen (chair), Ellen Edman, Chris Molitor

Staff: Kylie Christanell, Kyle Henke

The meeting convened at 3:03 p.m. at the Kirkwood Community Center, Rm. 202

1. Citizen Comments:

Edward Johnson, 336 Lilthia, Rock Hill, MO. Spoke in favor of the Youth in

Action project, representing Keith Rawlings & Masonic Lodge No. 92

1. Approval of minutes – Oct. 29, 2021 Minutes were amended to add the date for the Oct. 29, 2021 minutes, then approved unanimously. Sept. 20,2022 Minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Unfinished business – there was none
3. New business
4. Webster Groves Nature Study Society – James Earl Comfort – Kiosk.

Committee requests that the application move forward and that the applicants provide the specifications for the sign, materials, etc. as well as the text of the sign. Committee requests that the last sentence of # 8 be deleted from the application. The organization of the WGNS (email address/ web site) may be included, however, the committee wants to avoid direct member solicitation. The project has educational value and as such has potential to attract new members. Ellen Edman suggests that a QR code be incorporated for each bird identified in the kiosk. Kyle Henke stated that installation by maintenance staff should not be a problem; Kyle stated it is important that the applicants understand that the Park Department cannot be responsible for damage to the kiosk due to vandalism.

1. Youth in Action – Napolean B. Morris – Headstone Replacement

Kylie Christanell gave a report on her efforts to get more information about the application process to submit Quinette Cemetery to the National Historic Registrar. Kylie has had trouble getting calls returned at the state level, and has recently found out that it is very difficult to get a cemetery approved for the National Historic Registry. It may take several applications, and there is no guarantee that it will be approved. Approval is not based on the importance of the people buried there, but more likely on the importance of the place or the broad patterns of history associated with the site. One local cemetery, Father Dickson, is on the National Historic Registry and succeeded after several applications, and with professional assistance in writing the application. Kylie is willing to continue the effort, with the help of Amy Lowry, but unsure about how much time she should commit. Additionally, the proposal to replace Napolean Morris’ headstone with granite, rather than the original material of marble, may cause some difficulty in gaining the National Historic Status. If the status can not be achieved, the importance of the cemetery and the stories of the African Americans buried there still has value to the local community. Ellen Edman wants to share the stories through community arts involvement and will discuss with the Arts Commission.

A discussion was held with Edward Johnson, representative of the

applicant. Edward believes it is more important for the headstone to

have longevity than for it to be of the original marble materials. The

partnership committee would like input from YAC on the issue concerning

the importance of the historic status and the headstone material.

Kyle Henke shared Kirkwood Ordinance # 9643 regarding Quinette

Cemetery to identify any compliance issues. Kyle will talk with Amy

Lowry regarding the application to Missouri for the Historic Status.

The committee discussed the applicant’s mention of Parks insuring the

headstone after 5 years, and agreed that the Parks district wouldn’t take

on that responsibility. The City of Kirkwood’s insurance would not likely

cover damage from vandalism either, since the policy has a $25,000

deductible. Kyle Henke did say that a game camera could be installed,

which does add some security through images which it records.

1. Other matters

The committee voted to unanimously to suspend consideration of the Edward Spiller Sr. Memorial Application, due to lack of information requested by the committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Kathy Paulsen (chair)