

Blue Ribbon Committee Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2023

6pm

Present: Tammy Joyce (TJ), Kelly Johnson, Andrew Clement, Carol Brown, David Yemm, Mayor Raleigh York, Ron Bratton, Payton Williams, Blythe Leonard, Nancy Staton

Absent: none

1. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Andrew, seconded by TJ and passed unanimously.
2. A motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on 5/4/2023 was made by Andrew, seconded by Kelly and passed unanimously.
3. Old Business- Public forum discussion
 1. The overwhelmingly popular use for the building discussed was a restaurant/brewery. Lots of suggestions came forward. TJ offered to share the full results of the public forum with the committee.
 2. There is still interest in using the building in part for a museum.
 3. The next step is performing a SWOT analysis for using the building in part for a restaurant/brewery and museum.
 4. TJ and others present were very pleased with the participation and positivity in the room at the public form. Mayor suggested sending a summary of what was learned at the forum to participants so everyone in attendance knows they were heard.
 5. Mayor wants an official recommendation for use of the building to council by the fall- seems like the major question on the table is whether to keep or sell the property. The official recommendation from the committee should include pros and cons for all uses.
 6. David recommended walking through the same discussion exercise the public forum participants did with the committee.
 7. Ron expressed concern about not using the whole building for the museum and selling the building. Kelly suggested that rotating exhibits could highlight more history in a smaller space.
4. New Business- museum visit recap.
 1. Members of the committee who attended the museum visit were incredibly impressed with what they saw. The consensus is that we are likely not in a position to do something similar in Thomasville without a huge infusion of resources from the city.
 2. Discussion ended so we could recess to 7 W. Guilford to see the work that had been done on the building.
5. No additional items.
6. Committee recessed to 7 W. Guilford to view progress in clean up and partition wall removal. The building looks amazing- huge thank you to the city employees who did the work!
7. The meeting was adjourned after a motion to adjourn from Andrew was seconded by Carol and passed unanimously.