

History Commission Minutes
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6 pm
James Island Town Hall
1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC

Call to Order

Co-Chairman J. Morrisette called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

Present: Commissioners: J. Morrisette, M. Williams, I. Brown Crouch, T. Robinson, J. Reese, R. Hilyer, Bill Lyon, Brook Lyon, M. Hemmer, W. Shelton.

Other Attendees: Elizabeth Green, Warren Phillips, Henrietta Martin, Joyce Heyward.

Approval of Minutes from Jan. 14, 2025

Bill Lyon made a motion to approve. I. Brown Crouch seconded. Minutes approved.

Changes to Agenda

Elizabeth Green, Henrietta Martin, and Joyce Heyward from the Payne Reformed Methodist Union Episcopal Church requested that the Commission consider sponsoring a historic marker on the site of the Church at 1560 Camp Road. It was the first African American Methodist church organized on James Island after the end of the Civil War. It continues to play a significant social, cultural, and religious role in the lives of the descendants of enslaved people. Following a brief presentation by Ms. Green, the church members submitted a completed application from the SCDHA website to the Commission. In compliance with the new Historic Marker policy, the Commission will review and respond to the request in about 6 weeks.

Old Business

1. Update on historic marker applications and orders:

W. Shelton reported that after submitting an electronic application for Three Trees historic marker with a PO to SCDHA in November, she was told it had to be submitted in hard copy with a check. This was done on Dec. 14, 2024. As of Feb. 3, 2025 the hard copies and check had not arrived and are presumed lost in the mail. W. Shelton will hand deliver the documents. She also said that following a recent call to Sewah Studios, the marker manufacturer, she was told that the Seashore Farmer's Lodge Marker would be ready in March and the Grimball Plantation marker would be ready in April. Sewah said they typically only process two orders at a time and "bundling" orders would not really speed up the process. The Sewah rep also stated that she did not know of other manufacturers who used the same process as Sewah, which is why South Carolina recommends them. M. Williams suggested that the Commission prioritize all historic sites for markers going forward and make a list. He also said that after asking for suggestions on social media, there was very little response. Bill Lyon reported that he has been meeting in subcommittee with I. Brown Crouch, and T. Robinson to discuss such a list. The subcommittee also brainstormed some fundraising suggestions for the cost of historic markers to include selling T shirts, private donations, and a bake sale. M. Williams clarified that applicants are expected to pay the \$250 that goes to SCDHA to approve and develop the text for each marker.

2. Pinckney Park Memorial:

M. Williams has been working on ordering the replica of Mr. Pinckney's headstone. He said he is working with an artist to ensure that the typeface on the monument is accurate. He and M. Hemmer met at Pinckney Park to decide the best location for placement. Mayor Lyon reminded the Commission that the final location has already been discussed with the family, and they need to confirm the location with her. The cost for the stone is \$2405 and must be paid before work begins. Mayor Lyon said that the cost had already been approved and asked M. Williams to send her the estimate to process the payment. M. Williams made a motion to proceed with the project. I. Crouch Brown seconded. Motion passed.

3. Report on Town Market:

J. Reese, T. Robinson, Bill Lyon, and I. Brown Crouch staffed the first History Commission booth at the Town Market on Friday Feb. 7. They said it was a success with lots of visitors and questions. Warren Phillips, a citizen who attended the meeting, came because of the booth to get more involved with the Commission. Bill Lyon said they needed more lighting since it was dark for the event. He offered a donated generator, but the Commission needed to buy a battery for \$65 and a light for \$35. He also suggested we use different posters. W. Shelton said we could use the history posters that used to hang at the Arts and Cultural Center. J. Reese suggested we use a TV monitor to show videos or play segments of the driving tour. I. Brown Crouch made a motion that the Commission spend \$100 to purchase the equipment for lighting. M. Williams seconded. Motion passed. J. Reese also offered to make slides. T. Robinson will bring a monitor. W. Shelton will make a one-page flyer about the Commission for the booth. Mayor Lyon said that materials and equipment for the booth can be stored at Town Hall. J. Morrison suggested we organize our volunteers, labor, set up, and staffing for the booths. W. Shelton said she will draft a chart and share it out so that everyone can sign up for different dates and shifts for upcoming events.

4. Fort Johnson Open House:

W. Shelton reported that she has signed the Commission up for a table at the Fort Johnson Open House on March 22 from 10-5. She will include shifts for the booth on the chart for Commissioners to sign up. Other booth events to plan include the Town Market on March 7 and April 4. Mayor Lyon also suggested that we set up a booth at the Lighthouse Point picnic on April 5. I. Brown Crouch volunteered to staff booths.

5. 2025 Goal and Objectives:

The Commission briefly discussed the list and noted that some of them were already underway. There was no formal action taken to adopt them. W. Shelton said she would send them out again and add them to the agenda for the next meeting.

New Business

1. R. Hilyer said he has reached out to families at the school where he teaches to collect old photographs of James Island history and suggested we post these on our website.
2. I. Brown Crouch said she would like to continue working as a subcommittee with T. Robinson and Bill Lyon to focus on historic markers, education outreach, and the hospitality booth.

3. M. Williams said he had created a YouTube video and would like to get a channel for the Commission to show the videos. J. Morrisette and J. Reese will support this effort as a subcommittee.

Adjournment: There being no further business, M. Williams moved to adjourn, I. Brown Crouch seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Next Meeting: 1/10/24 workshop, 1/14 Meeting.

Minutes provided by

Wendy Shelton, staff Liaison



History Commission

Sign in Sheet

February 11, 2025, 6:00 PM

Name	Address	Phone	Email
Mike Demos			
Elizabeth B. Green	1170 Landsdowne Dr.	843-276-1772	zbrnjess@bellsouth.net
Warren Phillips	1148 Oceanview Rd	843-469-3323	gwarrrenphillips@gmail
Sandy Hye	1170 Montgomery Rd	843 991 6649	rth/ya@comcast.net
Sue Brown Gourd			
Jin Morrissette			
Bill Byron			
Byce Howard	1933 Ghana St	843 607-1167	
HENRIETTA MICHILIN	1235 Hepburn St	543 469-3638	
JAY REESE			
Tom Robinson	541 Schosser Road	843 991 8602	csparke@stt1
Michael Williams			