

Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2009
5:00 PM

The Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board met in their regular monthly meeting on the above date at the Old Boone County Clerk's Building.

- I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Fox at 5:05 PM.
- II. **Roll Call.** Review Board members present were Chair Pat Fox, Vice Chair Don Clare, Hal McFarland, and Bridget Striker. Secretary Pat Wingo arrived at 5:12 PM. Also present was Matt Becher representing the Staff of the Boone County Planning Commission, Assistant County Administrator Tim Williams, and local researcher Melinda Sartwell. Mr. Pat Lense arrived at 5:24 PM.
- III. **Approval of Minutes.** Ms. Striker moved to approve the minutes of the May 2009 Review Board meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. McFarland and approved by all.
- IV. **Item Updates.** Mr. Becher reviewed the Staff Notes in regard to the Item Updates, and added the following comments:
 1. ***Historic Boone County Column.*** Mr. Clare has submitted an article about preparations for the 2011 for the June edition of *The Boone County Recorder*. Mr. McFarland asked about requirements for submitting a column and Mr. Becher and Ms. Fox advised him about the length and typical goals of the articles. He said he would consider some potential topics for future editions, possibly an article about the many signatures found on the walls in one of the upstairs rooms of the Old Courthouse. Ms. Fox suggested that he write a short article on the Kiger Trial, which he has written an entire book about.
 2. **2009 Preservation Awards.** Mr. McFarland noted that he was impressed with the awards reception and remarked that it "beautifully brought together what this board is all about." Ms. Fox observed that the slide show does a great job of conveying each of projects and people being recognized and that a number of those who attended stayed after the event to socialize and network. Ms. Striker commented that she has already reserved the large meeting room at the Main Library for the first Thursday of May, 2010.
 3. **Frank S. Milburn Machine Shop Demolition.** Mr. Williams passed around copies of the response letter received in the Judge-Executive's office from the University of Nebraska Foundation (UN Foundation), along with copies of some photos that were received by email. As board members read the letter, Mr. Williams cautioned them to remember that

the UN Foundation's Executive Director Keith Miles is a lawyer and that he is trying to "build their case" for demolishing the buildings on the property. The gist of the letter is that the UN Foundation feels they were doing the community a favor by demolishing a building that had become an eyesore and target for vandals. Mr. McFarland noted that UN Foundation does not seem particularly remorseful about the issue. Ms. Striker added that they "have called our bluff" and asked Mr. Williams for his opinion on next steps. Mr. Williams does not think there is any legal recourse available and suggested sending a letter to the editor of the newspaper of record in Lincoln, NE. Ms. Fox asked whether another meeting with Judge Moore could be arranged to discuss the issue and the county's next move. Mr. Clare commented that the small fine paid by the UN Foundation for failing to apply for demolition permit is "ridiculous." Ms. Striker said she would like to stiffer fines in such cases in the future. Ms. Fox added that Judge Moore seemed open to that idea and to increasing public awareness at the first meeting they had about the Milburn building. She asked Mr. Williams to set up another meeting with the Judge to discuss the two related issues: (1) what to do about the UN Foundation's demolition of the Milburn building and (2) how to handle such instances in the future.

4. **2008 - 2009 Certified Local Government Grant.** Mr. Becher updated the board on the status of this annual grant application, stating that he and Kevin Costello had again discussed the grant with Kentucky Heritage Council staff Peggy Guier. The revised grant request will focus more on the historic districts in the county and how board and staff administer them. This appears to be the unwritten priority of this year's CLG grant cycle, as established by the KHC. The revised grant application will be submitted by the end of June for consideration during the KHC's July meeting.
5. **Vaughan-Marquis Cemetery Rededication.** Ms. Striker left a copy of a pamphlet about this cemetery prepared by descendents, who are going to rededicate the cemetery on Saturday, June 27. Mr. Becher reminded the board that the cemetery is located off Merchants Drive in Florence, behind the Super Walmart, and was preserved within a fenced area per the county's cemetery ordinance. The grave marker for Larkin Vaughan, who is believed to be buried in this cemetery, has been in the Historic Preservation Office for over 10 years. Mr. Becher gave the marker to the Vaughan descendents, who had it incorporated into a new granite Vaughan family marker, which will be dedicated with numerous descendents traveling here for the event.

V. Items for Discussion and/or Action

- 1. Boone County African-American Heritage Project.** Ms. Striker introduced Ms. Melinda Sartwell, whom she feels is qualified to conduct a project documenting the county's African-American heritage. Ms. Sartwell passed around an excerpt from her recently published *Images of America* book for Walton. She is an NKU student in History and will graduate in Dec. 2009, then enter the NKU Public History grad program. She also researched, wrote and presented the Walton History Walk and produced materials for a companion website. Ms. Sartwell and Ms. Striker feel that this project would make a nice publication Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series. They discuss several good sources of photographs, including Zion Baptist Church in Walton and collections maintained by the Boone County Public Library, Northern Kentucky University and the Northern Kentucky African American Heritage Foundation. They also have connections with a number of the county's African-American families. Mr. Clare commented that, in his experience, Arcadia's editing staff can be very controlling and that we might not get a publication that suits our needs. Ms. Striker noted there are probably not enough funds for a high quality publication over which the board has complete control and that the Arcadia books do return a slight profit. Ms. Fox asked if the project could be broken into two phases: research now and publication later, after more funds are raised. Mr. Becher explains that Preservation Kentucky, Inc. is holding the mitigation funds for the project and suggests the board form a committee to work on the project. Ms. Fox, Ms. Wingo, Ms. Striker and Mr. Clare agree to meet as a committee over the summer and to present to the full board as appropriate.
- 2. Preservation Poker Paddle.** Pat Lense, President, Friends of Big Bone (FOBB), presented the concept for a Preservation Poker Paddle and music festival, tentatively scheduled for May, 2010, and asked for the Review Board's support. The boating event would begin at 8am and be a poker run format where people in canoes and kayaks would paddle the creeks near Boone's Landing (Big Bone, Mud Lick and tributaries), picking up poker cards at various stops. The person/group with the best poker hand at the end would be the winner. Local music would begin by noon and go through the afternoon. Event participation would be fee-based and parking would be \$2, although the festival itself would be free. Mr. Lense stated that the new operators at the county-owned Boone's Landing (formerly Big Bone Landing Marina) fully support the event and that the director of Cincinnati's Paddlefest – Brewster Rhoads – has pledged to help with logistics. Mr. Lense said they would like to serve food and beer but have not yet decided how to go about obtaining the necessary permits. The goal of the event is to promote local history and heritage. As such, Boone County local heritage organizations would be invited to exhibit at the festival, providing they supply someone to handle their own exhibit. Ms. Fox asked where proceeds would go and whether there is any opportunity to share them among participating organizations. As the event sponsor, Mr. Lense noted that proceeds will benefit the FOBB, although they are not

opposed to partnering with another group and splitting the proceeds, provided that group takes equal responsibility for the event planning and execution. There was general interest among Review Board members for partnering with the FOBB on the poker paddle. Ms. Wingo noted that this type of event would show that there is more to preservation than “fixing old buildings,” but that the Review Board’s role would have to be defined. Mr. Lense said that the most important thing the Review Board could do is help with promoting the event. Mr. Lense agreed to prepare a written proposal for presentation at the next Review Board meeting.

- 3. Review Board Summer Schedule.** The board discussed whether to meet in July and August and decided to cancel the meeting scheduled for July 9 but keep the regularly scheduled meeting for August 11.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Wingo moved to adjourn. Mr. McFarland seconded the motion and it was approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM. The next meeting of The Historic Preservation Review Board will be on August 13, 2009 at 5:00 PM in the Old Boone County Clerk’s Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Becher, Rural/Open Space Planner
Boone County Planning Commission

Pat Wingo, Recording Secretary

Pat Fox, Chair
Historic Preservation Review Board

Date