

Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society Meeting Minutes

Date: November 15, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Fire Museum

Attending: Wall, Walters, Legeros, Chamblee, Barefoot, Mike Ezzell, Mrs. Mike Ezzell

Meeting Opening: Legeros opened meeting.

Minutes Approval:

- 1) October 3 minutes approved.

Budget Report:

- 1) Checking account has \$ 457.60.
 - a. These monies are available for RFDHS use.
- 2) Savings account has \$ 1703.29.
 - a. These monies are from challenge coin sales, are being saved for future purposes.

Old Business:

- 1) Membership Drive - Collateral
 - a. Remaining Tasks
 - i. Legeros to get items to speakers this week:**
 1. Membership certificates.
 2. Membership cards.
 3. Paper version of t-shirt design.
 4. CD with PPT slides.
 5. Memory stick with PPT slides.
 6. Postcards with museum info.
 7. Postcards with Save the Date info.
 - b. T-shirts
 - i. We will be ordering t-shirts very soon.
 - ii. Specs:
 1. Font pocket scroll art confirmed.
 2. Back shirt steamer art confirmed.
 3. Grey/dark grey shirt color.
 4. Specify shirt quality.
 - a. Includes shirt pocket.
 - b. Gilden as brand?
 - c. Preshrunk.

- d. Reasonable quality desired.
 - iii. Final proof or example requested.
 - 1. Digital proof to confirm design.
 - 2. Physical proof, if possible.
 - iv. Action item: Henshaw to communicate above to vendor.**
 - c. Fulfillment process
 - i. Group discussed options.
 - ii. Henshaw has light-duty personnel available.
 - iii. Battalion Chiefs would likely be willing to assist.
 - d. Historical facts from Chamblee, to add to our speeches:
 - i. WPA – Acronym for Works Progress Administration, which included a national squad of writers who produced works.
 - ii. Steamer weighs 6,800 pounds, regarding why our trailer is sagging.
 - iii. Trailer axles made by Datsun (!).
- 2) Payroll Deductions
- a. Legeros returns with no information from RPFPA, on length/difficulty of process when they did same.
 - b. Walters has contact with city who would be willing to help, if we wanted to petition City Council for approval.
- 3) Tar Heel Traveller
- a. Legeros has submitted suggestion of museum and 1870 alarm bell for show.
- 4) 2012 Updates
- a. Anniversary planning.
 - i. Chief Walters provided summary of events planned and awaiting executive approval for next year.
 - ii. Birthday party on June 9.
 - 1. Apparatus parade.
 - 2. Antique pumping demonstration.
 - 3. Kids zone.
 - 4. Fire muster events.
 - 5. Funding.
 - iii. Fireman's Ball on November 17.
 - iv. Advertising.
 - v. Related items.
 - b. Historical society participation in above
 - i. Two tents are planned for Birthday Party.
 - 1. One tent for education/recruitment.
 - 2. One tent for historical society/historical displays.
 - ii. Historical display planned for Fireman's Ball.
 - c. Historical society events in 2012
 - i. Legeros noted that RFDHS has not yet planned for any historical society-driven anniversary events.
 - ii. Suggested that the monthly museum openings could be anchors for adding anniversary activities or themes.

- iii. Such as...
 - 1. History of RFD presentation conducted by Legeros in the training center at noon on a museum day, maybe done once or twice next year.
 - 2. Bring your photos day, where we collect or even scan photos that people bring.
 - 3. Bring your artifacts day, where we ask people to bring by anything they have and want to donate.
 - 4. Special-themed presentations, though we'd have to be careful. Noted Legeros, spending a couple weeks working on a special theme might take him away from a couple weeks working on, say, displays for the birthday party.
 - 5. Etc.
- iv. These activities would need to be promoted, he noted.
- d. Coin sales.
 - i. Chief Walters and others have been selling to firefighters at stations and other places.
 - ii. Online orders have been minimal, maybe 10 or 12 total so far.
- 5) Relief Check Mailing to Retirees
 - a. Letter shown that was drafted, and will be send in relief check mailing to retirees, with updates on what RFDHS has been doing.
 - b. See below for attached copy.
- 6) Call For Photos – 2007-2011
 - a. Legeros has started inquiring of Lee Wilson on getting a copy of his photos.
 - b. Yearbook project restart is still in infancy.
 - c. Capt. Fanning has expressed interest in participating as possible project director.
- 7) Hose Reel Wheel
 - a. Tim Duke is pending to take them to western? Pennsylvania, for work.
 - b. Henshaw mentioned that both he and his father-in-law are headed that way, in coming weeks.
 - c. **Action: Henshaw will contact Duke, to see if he can help transport.**
- 8) Surplus Furniture
 - a. Walters has received no further information on same.

New Business

- 1) Steamer Restoration project.
 - a. Led by Mike Ezzell
 - b. Chief Styons, Chief Richards also participating.
 - c. Objective is fixing steamer so it can be fired and pump for 2012 anniversary.
 - d. Ezzell has engaged group of local steam engine hobbyists.
 - i. They've examined the steamer at Station 28.
 - ii. Boiler looks good, no rust in boiler tubes.

- iii. Fire box looks good.
 - iv. Wheels need to be hydrated/soaked.
 - v. Missing some equipment: lanterns, nozzles.
 - vi. Next step is probably a hydrotest of the thing.
 - vii. City boiler inspection is not recommended, as inspector is probably unfamiliar.
 - viii. State boiler inspection would be required for operation.
 - e. Discussion of lower operating pressures that would be used, and what dangers are/are not present in the event of over-pressure.
 - i. Dangerous overpressure would require intentional steps, as the steamer is/was designed for more simplicity and safety of operation.
 - f. Last time steamer was operated, it was pumped using air pressure.
 - i. Prior to reclamation by RFD, was out at the Fairgrounds/at Gregory Poole. Bob Biggs petitioned City Council to reclaim. He was approved, but with condition they it be brought back horse-drawn. So he went to Meredith College (Vet School?) and got some horses, and brought it back.
 - g. Discussion of the hydrant paint on the steamer, and if it could be removed but preserve the gold leaf underneath.
 - h. Discussion of a new trailer
 - i. Services is investigating acquiring a trailer.
 - ii. Minimum capacity for carrying steamer.
 - iii. Optimum is capacity for carrying heavier vehicle, like 1926 or 1950 pumpers.
 - i. Ezzell is looking for local and national contacts for help.
 - i. Henshaw has names of contacts.
Action: Henshaw get names to Ezzell.
 - ii. Ezzell wants to take day trip to Charlotte, to talk with their folks.
 - iii. Legeros has inquired of Durham Fire Department, to see if their 1903 Metropolitan is available for viewing.
 - iv. Legeros has supplied Ezzell with period documents on steam engines, and may have other materials.
- 2) Station 28 apparatus
- a. 1982 Mack
 - i. Al Hogan has started a project to equip the truck and do a bit of restoration.
 - ii. He's a few weeks into the project, and has found some surplus equipment at Services.
 - iii. He's replaced a broken headlight, found some better/working gauges, fixed some tail lights, etc.
 - iv. He's found pike poles, some nozzles, spanners, etc.
 - v. The truck is at Services. It'll be brought back soon, along with his small cache of equipment/parts.
 - b. Full bays

- i. Two reserve trucks are now assigned to Station 28, an engine and a platform ladder.
 - ii. Though they're not always present, when they're there, they make for crowded conditions.
 - iii. Thus is tour groups want to visit Station 28, it would be desirable to have the reserves pulled out of the bay.
 - iv. The antiques are always left in place, and not moved. Around.
 - v. Designing some signage for Station 28, about the antiques, is a possible future project.
 - c. Inventory
 - i. It could be good to think of a way to inventory all hand tools on the antiques.
 - ii. Food for future thought.
- 3) Upcoming Events
- a. Regular museum opening on December 10.
 - i. Tim Wall staffing, tentative.
 - ii. Mike Legeros staffing.
 - b. Retiree Christmas party on December 10.
 - i. Lee Wilson likely available to attend and take pictures.
 - ii. Legeros looking at bringing poster and post cards to event.
 - c. City Museum history talk on December 3.
 - i. Mike Legeros talk on Great Fires at 2:00 p.m.
 - ii. Retirees invited to talk about Pine Knoll at 1:30 p.m.
 - iii. Educator contacted to see if an engine or ladder can be there.
 - iv. Chief McGrath sent heads-up.
 - v. To be advertised to all personnel a little later.
- 4) Name change
- a. Group discussed benefits of considering a name change, and to reduce confusion between "Raleigh Fire Department" and "Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society."
 - b. Words "Raleigh" and "Museum" are probably desired
 - c. Suggested names for consideration include
 - i. Raleigh Fire Museum
 - ii. Fire Museum of Raleigh
 - iii. Etc.
 - d. Action: Members asked to mull the name change over the next month.**
- 5) Marketing
- a. Something we have to do, getting better at doing.
 - b. Current channels include:
 - i. Facebook page
 - ii. City press releases
 - iii. Legeros Fire Blog
 - iv. E-mail to all personnel
 - v. RFD internal web postings
 - vi. E-mail to retirees
 - c. Could fliers be sent to all city departments?

- i. With membership applications on last page?
 - d. Could monthly features or articles be submitted to city internal employee site?
 - e. News & Observer mini page?
 - 6) Fundraising
 - a. Something we are doing, will always be doing.
 - b. Current fundraisers:
 - i. Coin sales
 - ii. Membership driver with personnel
 - 7) Museum operation
 - a. Something to also be done, ongoing
 - b. Inventory of artifacts/holdings
 - i. Ongoing need
 - ii. We've done an initial pass
 - iii. We're in good shape, for starters

Next Meeting:

Monday, December 5 at Station 23, at 7:00 p.m.

Attachment #1 – Relief Check Letter

See separate file.