

**AT A COMMUNITY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 23, 2017 AT
6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

PRESENT: **Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5**
 Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Robert Presnell, County Administrator
 Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator
 David Weiss, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

1. WELCOME

Chair Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and said they hoped to collaborate and come up with ideas. She invited everyone to help themselves to the refreshments that were provided.

2. OVERVIEW/TIMELINE ON OLD STEVENS SCHOOL

Chair Taylor said they had reached out to quite a few people to be a part of the committee so this idea could be one that “was birthed from here” and nothing was etched in stone. She introduced Robert Presnell, the current County Administrator, Dee Jackson, the Interim County Administrator that would be taking the helm on October 31, 2017, Commissioner Holt, Vice Chair Hinson and City Commissioner Angela Sapp.

She said the School was built in 1929 as Dunbar School and was renamed Stevens School and she gave a brief history of the school.

She said the School caught fire on Sunday, March 26, 2017.

3. FUTURE PLANS OF THE OLD STEVENS SCHOOL

She said a committee was put together to get some ideas for construction.

She said she was asked if some of the bricks could be saved to be used for a later project. She said some ideas that have been mentioned were taking the lunchroom and converting it to a Health Center and a Law Enforcement Sub-station was mentioned. She said one idea to do on the area that burned was to use the bricks and make a memorial with shrubbery around it with benches.

Craig Clary spoke and said the most important thing about Gadsden County was the young people. He said drugs were a problem; they needed to consider mental health help and education for the young people. He said the past was gone and tomorrow was what they needed to know about.

Commissioner Hinson said he had a chance to visit Winter Park, FL for a family reunion and they met at an African-American museum and he was awestruck by it. He said it was a state of the art museum and felt something as that would be good here.

City Commissioner Angela Grant Sapp thanked Commissioner Taylor and the BOCC for bringing this group together. She said the most important thing was they had to work together and make this a collaborative effort of all of their ideas. She said they needed a vision of where they wanted to go.

Rosetta Hylton-Anderson spoke and said she worked with Mrs. Kruize (that had the Black History Museum in the school) and stood outside crying when the school burned because she knew what was inside and what was lost.

Several other citizens had comments.

Commissioner Holt spoke and gave her ideas. She said before the street out front was Pat Thomas Parkway, it was Roberts Street and there were all types of businesses on that street. She said they needed something on that site now that would get the attention of USDA and the Federal Government to let them know that they were in business.

Some of the things that were discussed:

- Rebuild portion of school
- Be considerate of parking
- Staffing of the facilities and how we will pay
- County received 500K in insurance
- Grants, revitalization funds
- Things have to be done in phases
- Economic Development
- Save bricks
- Business incubator
- Meeting room
- Training center
- Office space
- Police substation
- Remember the Children
- African American Museum
- www.hannibalssquareheritagecenter.org
- Health office
- Steven and Cultural School
- People all over the County attended the School not just a certain district
- Gallery

- Reach out to FAMU to assist

4. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

5. DISCUSSION OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was decided the next meeting would be Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
at the Campbell Kelly Center

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:39 P.M.


GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



ATTEST:



BRENDA HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk