



**The Darden House**  
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**Members:**

Carol Schuler  
*President*

Phyllis Baxter  
*Vice President*

Ellen Spears  
*Secretary*

J. Logan Smith  
*Treasurer*

Dr. David Turner

**The regular meeting of the Elkins Historic Landmarks Commission was called to order at 5:10 p.m. on Thursday, May 20, 2010.**

Members of the commission in attendance were Carol Schuler, Phyllis Baxter, Logan Smith, Ellen Spears and David Turner. Megan Grisolano and Jessica Serrao, Americorps, and the City Attorney, Gerri Roberts were in attendance.

Minutes from the April meeting, distributed by Ellen via email prior to the meeting, were approved unanimously.

Carol presented several bills to be paid by EHLC. Logan reported that Literacy had sent a check of \$150.00 for rent. The treasurer's report was presented by Logan Smith and approved unanimously. Logan plans to email a copy of the report to commissioners as his printer was out of order at the time of the meeting.

The porch project is at a halt. Communications with the contractor have been impossible since he has not returned telephone calls to either Carol or the attorney, Gerri Roberts. Gerri reported on her participation with the porch negotiations thus far. Carol has spoken with Michael Mills and sent a letter to Susan Pierce at SHPO detailing all that has occurred to this point. The work that has been done, has been done poorly and will have to be taken out and re-done. Much of the grant money will have to be returned and all new materials need to be bought.

A discussion between commissioners about the necessity of severing the contract with the current contractor ensued. All materials purchased with grant money must be returned, unspent funds must be returned. A motion was made to: "Take the steps necessary to sever the relationship with Brian, recover as much as possible, including resolution by binding arbitration." The motion was seconded and passed with unanimous approval.

The city attorney, Gerri Roberts, will draft a letter for review via email.

The Homeowners Workshop, May 26<sup>th</sup>, is well on its way. Letters and flyers went out this week; press release will go out this week too. **All Commissioners should arrive at the Darden House at 6:00 p.m.**

Logan announced that Ace Hardware is donating two lead test kits and safety brochures for the workshop.

Megan Grisolano presented her finalized list for the resource center in the Darden House. Megan has determined that buying locally for many of the items will be possible. She plans to have the books that EHLC has available on the shelves in the Darden House by the time of the Homeowners' workshop.

Also, in answering the need to have someone available at the Darden House to oversee the Resource Room, Megan has agreed to work there on Mondays from 12:00 noon – 6:00 p.m. starting on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

David Turner is working on a story for the local newspaper about historic Elkins buildings to highlight May's preservation theme.

Linda Silva is now working in the Darden House gardens. She will be buying flowers Saturday for landscaping. Commissioners agreed to hire Linda to do yard maintenance for up to 10 hours per month and when necessary, more hours after checking with and getting approval from EHLC president.

Jessica has edited the historic building descriptions for the walking tour. She has tried to prioritize the buildings currently on the list but it will have to be cut down to fit on the tri-fold design. She has asked for the input of our commission on what may be taken out.

Carol related that the City of Elkins, as communicated by the Mayor, has included the Darden House in their feasibility study for updating the telephone service.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,  
Ellen Spears