

**Mobile Historic Development Commission
Meeting Agenda
January 5, 2026
Richards-DAR House Museum
256 N Joachim Street
5:30 P.M.**

Call to Order

The meeting commenced at 5:35 p.m.

Present:

Jaime Betbeze, Virginia Behlen, Peters Drey, Virginia Edington, Jessica Fairly, Ann Forbes, Alison Henry, Joan Hoffman, Tim Maness, and Ivy Thompson

Absent:

Jean Dodge, Steven McNair, and John Ruzic

City Staff:

Kimberly Branch-Thomas, Bruce McGowin, and Meredith Wilson

Approval of Minutes:

Jaime Betbeze moved to approve the minutes of the November 3 meeting. Ivy Thompson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Betbeze, on behalf of Treasurer Virginia Eddington, reported that the Executive Committee had been added as signatories on the accounts and had transferred \$25,000 from the easement account into a Certificate of Deposit (CD) account. The \$1800 in the primary account was from the previous Banner and Shield applications and would be transferred to the Friends of MHDC account.

New Business

1. Banner & Shield Application Process

Alison Henry discussed the updates to the Banner & Shield application process. Everything was moved online. Any homes outside of the 7 locally recognized districts would require the owner to provide all research. The cost was being increased to \$125 for the banner, \$125 for the shield, or \$225 for both.

2. Church Street Graveyard Lighting Improvements

Alison Henry discussed lighting improvements at Church Street Graveyard. There are ongoing discussions with the city on what is required and what would be the best lighting to use. Suggestions were made that we could contact various foundations, including Alabama Power, for donations to cover the cost of the lighting upgrades.

3. Preservation Month Event

Meredith Wilson discussed an education event for the upcoming Preservation Month of 2026. John Ruzik will be presenting a window restoration class for a small fee. More information to come.

4. DAR Fundraiser

Tracy Guice informed everyone about the DAR Fundraiser in March and that tickets could be purchased through any DAR member.

There being no additional business, the meeting was concluded at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tim Maness, Secretary