

**Mobile Historic Development Commission**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**March 2, 2026**  
**Richards-DAR House Museum**  
**256 N Joachim Street**  
**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

The meeting commenced at 5:32 p.m.

**Present:**

Jaime Betbeze, Virginia Behlen, Peters Drey, Virginia Edington, Jessica Fairly, Ann Forbes, Alison Henry, Tim Maness, and John Ruzic

**Absent:**

Jean Dodge, Steven McNair, Ivy Thompson, and Joan Hoffman

**City Staff:**

Kimberly Branch-Thomas, Bruce McGowin, and Meredith Wilson

**Approval of Minutes:**

Jaime Betbeze moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Ann Forbes seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Mr. Betbeze, on behalf of Treasurer Virginia Eddington, reported that the Easement account had a balance of \$2,981.00 and that we have the \$25,000 CD at Regions Bank from this account. The MHDC account had about \$1,900 in it from the banner and shield deposits. Mr. Betbeze proposed to transfer \$1,800 of that to Friends of MHDC and keeping \$100 in the account to make sure it stays active. It was in the minutes from January's meeting that a motion for this transaction was approved. Treasurer's report was accepted and will be filed for audit.

**New Business**

**1. DAR House Fundraising**

Tracy Guice discussed the upcoming Richards DAR House fundraising garden party on March 28<sup>th</sup>. It will help support ongoing maintenance of the house and grounds. Mrs. Guice explained that the house was owned by the city but maintained and operated by DAR volunteers. Mrs. Guice continued to explain that past funds have been used for sand blasting and repainting various items on the property and maintaining the gardens. They have upcoming projects such as replacing the carriage house roof and replacing the plexiglass windows with true French doors. The door replacement came with a bid of \$24,000 for the work from Oakleigh Restoration.

**2. America 250 Events Galvez and the Gulf**

Alison Henry introduced Annesia Miller to discuss the upcoming events to celebrate Galvez and the Gulf. Mrs. Miller discussed that the City of Mobile Museum will host several America 250 events highlighting Galvez's role in the American Revolution. Some of the events include a free lecture on Friday, March 13, 6:00-7:30pm, located in the upstairs lecture hall. Some of the speakers will be

Professor Chavez, Mike Bunn, and Begonia Santos (from Queen Sophia Institute). Reception to follow at meeting location.

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm there will be a battle reenactment at Fort Conde with cannon and musket fire. There will be a wreath laying ceremony to follow at 2:15pm.

**3. Youth Engagement in Historic Preservation**

Ann Forbes discussed that she had attended a zoom meeting with the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions on building local preservation programs. Mrs. Forbes informed everyone that one of the main focuses of the meeting was to discuss youth involvement. This led to a discussion of getting local youths from local high schools and Bishop State involved with programs like cleaning grave markers and cleaning of local historic cemeteries. Everyone agreed that it would be a good idea to work on a hands-on community event for National Preservation Month in May.

**4. Online Banner and Shield Application**

Alison Henry informed everyone that the application has now been fully moved online and that it was moving along greatly. To date, the online application has received 16 applications. She discussed that the system automates data entry in Excel, reducing manual work and errors. The application fee was raised to cover all costs of moving everything online, as well as the increased cost of the banner and shields themselves. The raise in fees also helps ensure that only those that have put in the required work will apply. Mrs. Henry also informed everyone that one of the things that changed was the applications for homes outside of the locally recognized historic districts will require that the applicant supply all information on the home. Research will no longer be conducted for homes outside of the locally recognized historic districts. The upcoming deadline of April 1 was quickly approaching, and the committee will have a slate of homes for review in May.

There being no additional business, the meeting was concluded at 5:57 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Tim Maness, Secretary*