

City of Keystone Heights City Council

Heritage Commission Workshop-Museum Proposal

ANYONE WISHING TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING ANY TOPIC ON THIS EVENING'S AGENDA IS REQUESTED TO COMPLETE A CARD AND RETURN TO THE CITY CLERK. SPEAKERS ARE RESPECTFULLY REQUIRED TO LIMIT THEIR COMMENTS TO THREE (3) MINUTES.
THE CITY COUNCIL PROHIBITS THE USE OF CELL PHONES AND PAGERS WHICH EMIT AN AUDIBLE SOUND DURING ALL MEETINGS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRE AND RESCUE OR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS ON CALL. PERSONS IN VIOLATION WILL BE REQUESTED TO LEAVE THE MEETING.

"Please turn off cell phones"

Call to Order:

Roll Call:

Present:

Absent:

Date: Jun 03 2025

Discussion

[1. Museum Proposal](#)

 [Museum Proposal.pdf](#)

The date of this workshop is **Thursday June 5th, 2025**

Chairwoman Christine Arnold opened the meeting.

Roll Call

Christine Arnold Chairwoman

Deirdre Murphy, Co-Chairwoman

John Silva

Kim Willis

Helen Hersey

Dr. Rhonda Hiser presented a proposal with how to make business plan along with additional information to build a museum. She explained the opportunity to have exhibits at some of the local colleges. She states the southern museum has numerous pieces of art. She stated the city could receive revenue from sharing the exhibits.

She stated she would provide a world class digital library.

Rhonda Hiser addressed the Heritage Commission, Councilman Lewandowski, Councilman Welch and audience.

- Handed out packet Reviewed contents of packet Map of Keystone Heights Career One Stop Occupation Profiles and email from Santa Fe College Listed possible new careers in KH that would come from a museum and courses that can be taught at SF College Library Science Genealogy Museum Science Grant Writing Possible Revenue Streams split between 501c3 and the City Stipend from loaning artifacts to colleges and other museums Income from courses offered Grants Courses taught How to create a successful business plan Discussed how she will support the creation of the museum business plan and financially as a grant writer with NO COST to the City of Keystone Heights and would sign a contract for that point. 501C3 – Benefit to the City Allows fundraising when the City cannot The 501c3 would eventually transition to the City representative with no financial gain to Rhonda. She would allow members of Keystone Heights Council and our Heritage Commission on the 501c3 Board. Type of Building that can be used Rhonda shared the types of buildings that she could facilitate getting and the price point (premade) Dan Lewandowski and Deirdre commented on the need for a building that is hurricane proof that will keep artifacts secure from flooding and safe from theft. Dr. Hiser states she has a FBI forensic auditor, Sunny Cason on the board.
- Discussion evolved into the importance of the concrete slab and reinforced concrete for the stability of the structure.
- Discussion of how the building would be laid out.
- Question asked regarding the partnership was posed by Deirdre and seconded by Councilman Lewandowski and Councilman Welch: Rhonda suggested a 100 year lease with no salary for her. Rhonda went into her ability to raise money sighting the Lincoln flag and the fact that the private buyer might be willing to lend it to the museum for the grand opening. Rhonda has the media and publishing rights to the book about the Lincoln flag and those proceeds will go towards the museum. Rhonda shared that she knows Brian Kilmeade and that he has told her that in 2026 or 2027 he is doing a series on small town museums and her next museum (Keystone Museum) would be the first museum covered in that series.
- Rhonda shares her academic journey: Graduated from high school at age 11 Attended Rice University at age 11 Offered full scholarship from Cambridge University at age 12 by Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel Company. Graduated with a degree in engineering Retired as an engineer at 20 years old from Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel Worked for the Peace Corp in South Africa (Part Time) Attended the University of Texas in Dallas, studied pre-law and poli-sci Pause to state how blessed she had been and “What kind of person would I be if I took from people (referring to a salary) that I could bless instead.”

Deirdre – None of us have your credentials, but we all have the same heart and desire to give back. We are all volunteers.

Rhonda – That is why I am here. I want to support you.

Deirdre and Kim – What is our next steps?

Rhonda – Location, future land use, and zoning.

Dan Lewandowski begins his presentation on possible land use:

- Dan begins by giving history of the Wings of Dreams Museum and possible artifacts available for museum. (Rhonda was very intrigued.)
- Possible museum locations: AirportSunrise ParkAzelea Park and making an offer on Victory Way Church propertyOld Public WorksBuying the old firehouse (Pinch A Penny)
- Discussed having multiple locations Rhonda suggested that we could investigate Old Town transit or have a shuttle system that would provide more revenue for the city.
- Discussed museum focus and name being broad in scope
- Discussed the museum being a complex that is family oriented Mall of Museums (mini exhibits in one)Disneyland for intellectualsChautauqua 2.0 Guest speakers/lecturesClasses
- Building in Phases (Free flow of ideas and dreams) First location Walking distance from downtown vs. Sunrise ParkOld PW area and then Phase 2 would be Sunrise ParkAirport as a location for aviation artifactsPW being Keystone HistorySunrise Park being the facility for more artifacts, traveling exhibits, classes, pop up retail, food trucks, etc.
- Rhonda shares that another revenue source would be craft fair circuit and chili cook off circuit.
- Rhonda explains that grant writing for museums runs from April 15-November 15. She says we are still in the window to get this going for next year. The building can be supplied within 90 days of grant approval.She is willing to sign a contract with the City of Keystone Heights to consult through the whole process, with no pay, and will not leave.

Dan – “I want Christine Arnold to come before the Council on the Monday meeting (6/9/2025) with a 5-minute presentation regarding this proposal with specific reference to Sunrise Park being used as the site for the museum. I am going to ask Rich the City Attorney to draft a lease document for a 50-to-100-year lease with the Southern History Museum. I am also going to ask that 2 to 3 board positions on the 501c3 board be people from Keystone Heights.”

Meeting Adjourned: