

## **Henderson Business & Professional Women's Club**

Meeting Minutes  
January 19, 2017

### **CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION**

The regular meeting of the Henderson Business & Professional Women's Club was called to order at 6:35 pm on January 19, 2017, by President Marsha Abbott. After the invocation by Dianne White, members enjoyed dinner at the Perry Memorial Library.

Members present were Marsha Abbott, Ann Hudson, Val Short, Donna Stearns, Dianne White, Kathy Taylor, Marty Smith, Michelle Evans, Patti McAnally, June Blanks, and Maria Bailey.

Guests: Tem Blackburn.

### **MEETING PROGRAM**

Tem Blackburn served as our speaker for the evening. The Vance County Historical Society had special items from history, and the Perry Memorial Library had space available on its second floor. Items were moved carefully to the area in the library. Mr. Blackburn described how important the use of the library is to the Historical Society for this exhibit. The plan was to have a chronology around the central exhibit. The timeline display is 15 feet long with a total of 38 feet of time. The point of timeline is to give chronology of events and tie these events to larger national/international event. Fundamentally, timelines tell a story of what a place is and how it came to be. Mr. Blackburn shared how the change of civic clubs occurred over time.

Plantation owners moved to Henderson to work with tobacco. Originally, Vance County had a plantation economy. Tobacco was placed in a barrel and pulled on wooden roads to Petersburg, Virginia for all of the period until the Civil War. In 1837, the railroad came to Henderson. For the next large event in 1872, James Cooper moved to Henderson and intersected tobacco and the railroad. Mr. Cooper opened the first warehouse to sell tobacco. When the farmers were paid, they were now spending money in Vance County. The stores here grew well and banks came in 1882. The economy moved to retail and financial then came big industry (1888 - JP Taylor built a tobacco processing plant). Cotton mills were built and became large employers. Henderson had the largest textile mills in the South. Agriculture was the beginning of everything. Later, Roses organized in 1915 in Henderson. With that base, the foundation of the economy lasted 100 years. A social fabric was created and the town was walkable. Everyone lived in the business district and was connected to each other through family or business.

In 1926, JC Penney, a chain store, opened. In 1971, the mall opens and downtown business declines. Banks were sold and no longer locally-owned. Roses ended up in financial trouble due to the competition of Walmart. In 2003, both mills closed. In 2004, the government ended price supports on tobacco. The key thing in social reality is that the control of everything is elsewhere. When you have chain businesses, the future is not controlled where you live. The focus of the community is not in terms of an interconnected fabric. Once the base is gone, then there is no way to place the pieces back together.

In the future, enterprise will drive what Henderson will be. What is of interest to people remains an open issue. Even the library may be different.

The members visited the exhibits including those about Native Americans and Mr. Rose and the Roses Store. Also, they viewed the soda fountain and mural of Parker's Drug.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes were received from the November 17, 2016 monthly meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Donna Stearns provided the financial report.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

<b>Beginning Balance 11/30/2016</b>	<b>\$2,453.64</b>
<b>Deposits</b>	<b>+391.00</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>-331.00</b>
<b>Balance as of 12/30/2016</b>	<b>\$2,393.64</b>

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Donations: The Henderson Club donated \$331 to the Lumber River Baptist Association at the holidays. The donations will help with school supplies for the children.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Nominating Committee: It is time to think about the Nominating Committee. Members will consider serving.

Newsletter: It has come to the attention of President Marsha Abbott that the title of the *Niki Newsletter* is misspelled. The name will be changed to Nike. Marsha will correct the older copies.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

- No correspondence.
- The BPW/NC Foundation will host a WEE event on Saturday, March 25, 2016. Patti McAnally and June Blanks volunteered to assist Michelle Evans with the WEE.
- Bernice Barchan has sold her home in Townsville and moved this week to Asheville to be close to her family.

#### **ADJOURNMENT AND COLLECT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.