

Brunswick History Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 5, 2025, at 2:00pm

Present: Dr. Wayne Allgaier (Chairman), Mr. Peter Wenner (Secretary), Mr. David McIntosh (Board Member), Ms. Jackie Ebersole (Board Member), Mr. Tim Wilson (Board Member), Mr. Bruce Funk (Board Member), Mr. John Faith (Board Member), Mr. John Caves (City Council Liaison), Mr. Ariel Gonzalez (Guest)

The following topics were discussed:

- **Business:**
 - With Dr. Allgaier's planned absence on June 12th, Mr. McIntosh will chair the meeting.
 - The humidity in the meeting room/library continues to be a problem that's not getting solved by the dehumidifier. Air conditioning can help, but only in summer months.
 - Mr. McIntosh has the microfilm reader/scanner up and running, but a cable is needed to connect it to our laptop/printer to make full use of its capabilities.
 - The exhibit at Springfest drew a number of visitors, many of whom enjoyed the exhibit featuring Brunswick's storied baseball history. The festival was well attended despite the weather.
 - Dr. Allgaier mentioned an email from Retired Captain Harry Nicholson, a California native who lived in Brunswick through World War II before entering college and the U.S. Navy.
 - Miss Lavinia Hood's scrapbook, which began in 1917 at the start of her Brunswick teaching career, has been added to the History Commission library.

- **History:**
 - There was a brief discussion of Dorothy Strathern's History of Brunswick, which doesn't cover everything and features a description of what it was like to live on a canal boat in 1896.
 - Dr. Allgaier mentioned a soon-to-be-published Brunswick News-Journal article on the sale of the old City Hall building on E. A Street for use as a micro-hotel. Other City hall factoid were cited:
 - The first City Hall may have been located in the old "town beneath the tracks", but there is no evidence in land records. Mr. Funk believes it more likely to have been in the home of Mayor John Jordan.
 - The city bought the land on E. A Street for a then-new City Hall in 1897, but it wasn't built until 1910.
 - The building was expanded in 1949 by adding wings to both sides, with minor modifications made later.
 - City Hall was moved to its current location on W. Potomac Street in 1999; after a relatively short time in the old Souder & Chick dairy, police headquarters was in the old City Hall building on E. A Street until moving to the new facility on W. Potomac Street in 2024.
 - We continued to work on the timeline:

- 1910 - Park Heights Cemetery opened on land purchased from Howard Marvin Jones.
- 1911 - The first burial in Park Heights Cemetery.
- 1913 - Brunswick High School opened on 4th Avenue.
- 1917 - The United States entered World War I.
- 1924 – C&O Canal was permanently closed after a devastating Spring flood.
- 1928 – Scheer Stadium opens for football; first baseball opening day in 1929.
- 1932 - The first Armistice Day parade, according to a Google search; Mr. Wilson will confirm the date.
- 1932 – Schnauffer Hospital opens in the current Zumbach garage.
- 1936 - Schnauffer Hospital opens on corner of N. Virginia Avenue and W. B Street.
- 1936 – St. Patrick’s Day flood was Brunswick’s worst.
- 1941 - The United States entered World War II.
- 1942 – Another significant Spring flood.
- 1952 or 1956 – Brunswick Airfield opens, Dr. Allgier to confirm.
- 1954 – Founding of Brunswick Volunteer Ambulance Co.; Ms. Ebersole to confirm.
- 1956 – Brunswick flying club started by Jimmy Ridgeway.
- 1960 – Last steam engine in Brunswick; Mr. McIntosh to confirm.
- 1962 – WTRI goes on the air.
- 1963 – First Brunswick Public Library opens in old West Brunswick Elementary School.
- 1965 – Brunswick High opens on the site of the old B&O Farm.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.