

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA,
HELD A WORK SESSION IN THE STRASSWEG AUDITORIUM OF THE NEW
ALBANY FLOYD COUNTY LIBRARY ON MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2013 AT 6:30 P.M.**

The meeting of the **New Albany City Council** was called to order by President Pat McLaughlin at 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Caesar, Mr. Phipps, Mr. Blair, Ms. Baird, Mr. Gonder and Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. Coffey, Ms. Benedetti and Mr. Zurschmiede were not present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Christopher Moore, Rebecca Van Sessen, and Vicki Glotzbach

Dr. Christopher Moore introduced himself and stated that he is a faculty member of the archeology department at the University of Indianapolis.

Rebecca Van Sessen explained that she is a research assistant at the University of Indianapolis and that she is from Floyd Knobs so she is very interested in the history of this project.

Dr. Moore explained that they are focusing on some of the Southern Indiana counties to try and get some funding from the state who administers the grant program through the National Parks Service that funds archeological surveys in priority counties and Floyd County is one of those counties. He explained that Floyd County has a lot of archeological resources but they don't know much about them so this would be a database enhancement project. He stated that by comparison Clark County has over 2000 recorded sites while Floyd County only has 200 so they really want to increase what Floyd County has to offer to the state through this program. He explained that their initial research would be mostly survey work and if there is community interest they could always develop excavation programs. He gave a brief background regarding the science of archeology and explained that it is all about material culture to fill in aspects of history that aren't typically recorded. He stated that this gives them a better understanding of communities and how they have changed throughout time. He discussed the different types of archeology and what information they learn from each. He explained that the study of archeology is the study of human past for as long as there have been humans and molecular evidence tells them that humans have been around for about 200,000 years. He stated that the first humans to arrive in the Ohio River Valley that they have evidence for arrived around 15,000 years ago and up to about 2,500 years ago they were all hunter/gatherers and they have no written history of these people so archeology serves to tell their story. He explained that about 1000 years ago the political life changed in Indiana and they started seeing very complex societies with a hierarchy within the communities and that lead to early settlement and the replacement of the Native American people by European and African American people. He discussed the early industry in Indiana and how it has evolved from the first small industries to the big corporations that we have today. He explained that they have to ask themselves what kinds of questions they want to have answered about an area and then they go out and find sites that they believe are associated with the time period or culture that they are interested in. He stated that the next step would be excavation and testing of those sites followed by processing and interpreting the findings. He explained that once this is done the findings are disseminated to the public.

Ms. Van Sessen gave the council some examples of how they use documents to help interpret their finds. She stated that something that is really important to them is giving back to the public so they don't want it to be solely an academic project but they want the community involved as well. She explained that they do public digs that are open to anyone that wants to join in as well as set up practice digs for the younger members of the community. She stated that they love coming to meetings like these to give

presentations because it gives them a better understanding of what they are all about. She explained that they try to have a real time online presence so that they community has some place to go for updates on their findings. She stated that Floyd County has a very interesting history and one of the main questions they have is where did these Native Americans live in this community and where were the early settlements out in the area around the river. She explained that answering this question is important because then they can look for the remains of those settlements in the grounds where they lived. She stated that New Albany has a rich history regarding industrialization and they want to find the history of the surroundings in this area. She stated that they are currently developing partnerships with the community to show support to get the grant money from the stated. She explained that they would like to meet the landowners of the properties that would be interested in letting them survey their properties. She stated that the process is just getting started and they will start putting together their grant packet in the fall and the more community support they have the better their chances are of getting the grant funding.

Mrs. Baird asked if they already have locations that they want to excavate.

Dr. Moore stated that they do have several landowners who have expressed interest in having their property surveyed.

Ms. Van Sussen stated that they will also work around the land owners schedule if there are crops involved.

Dr. Moore stated that they are just now getting information together to request funding and if that comes through the survey would start next year.

Mr. Gonder asked about the locations that sites they mentioned that are known.

Dr. Moore stated that most of those are in the New Albany area and along the Ohio River and many of them are historic sites.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the settlements along the river and their relocation during flooding.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Pat McLaughlin, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk