

Abita Springs Trailhead Museum

Board Meeting Minutes for January 29, 2019

Recorded by Gail Ledet

Members Present: Martha Gruning, George Long, Stewart Eastman, Steve Davis, Peggy Scimemi, Ron Blitch, Kristen Wilkinson, Geralyn Lips, Courtney Blitch, Barb Boories, Catherine Fraser, Susan Fischer and Gail Ledet

Absent with notice: Bryan Gowland, Jessica Lotspeich

Called to order at 5:05

Board Elections

The Slate of Officers was presented with no objections:

Co-Presidents – Courtney Blitch and Geralyn Lips

Vice President – George Long

Treasurer – Martha Gruning

Secretary – Gail Ledet

Officers were voted into office unanimously.

New Board member, Catherine Fraser, was introduced, along with the rest of the ASTM 2019 Board. Prospective Board Member, Alyssa Mead, has not responded to emails. Martha Gruning made a motion to nominate Kristen Wilkinson to the Board, with a second by Gail Ledet. Motion passed without objection. Kristen will be stepping down as Arts Administrator. The By-Laws permit Kristen to fill out an application after the fact. Catherine will also need to fill out an application. We will add an item to next month's agenda to fill Kristen's position as Arts Administrator. Discussion will be postponed for now

The 2019 ASTM Board members will be submitted to the Mayor for review and approval.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from December 27, 2018 meeting were prepared and distributed by Geralyn. Niki was not in attendance at the December meeting. It was decided to table the approval of the December minutes until the February meeting.

Financial Report

No update as Niki wasn't present for the meeting. Martha reported we have approximately 18K reported. \$1500 has been collected from Garage Sale Applications. That, along with monies collected from the Cajun Dance, brings our total to approximately 20K. Stewart requested information on the electric bill town. Martha responded the electric bill is paid by the town. She took **Action Item 1** to find out the amount of the Electric Bill.

Old Business

Elise Roome Art Retrospective

Marth has art samples. Elise Roome is Donata Henry's Grandmother. A show is being discussed and planned. It was noted that a sponsor for this event is unlikely. An opening reception, with videos and numerous paintings is the expected venue. Mary Davis could do the set up and publicity. Martha suggested a flat fee of \$500.

Ron suggested we do this type of exhibit on a quarterly basis. Donations for wine, beer, etc. would be easier to obtain from different vendors if we spread these exhibits out. It was discussed that a Development Committee be created which would find sponsors for this type of activity. Catherine and George agreed. **Action Item 2** was created for Catherine and Martha to develop a master list of sponsors to prevent duplicate requests for sponsorship. Catherine noted it was standard practice to thank and publicize exhibitors, sponsors and donors.

ASTM Committees are being developed, and any interested parties could stay after this meeting to discuss possible interests. It was announced that the Mayor is providing timely PDF's of upcoming meetings.

Stewart discussed options to make money for the museum, such as the sale of T-shirts or note cards.

Push Mow Update

George announced the three judges have been named – Margaret Dubuisson, Will Preble and 95 year old resident of Abita Springs, (Susan Fischer friend). 19 applications have been received to date. The maximum number of entries is 35. The Sheriff's Office has approved the parade plans. The next Push Mow Committee meeting is February 4, 5:00. The After Party will be at the Town Hall. New 4 x 8 signs are being created by John Preble. Jo and Sandra will be preparing the Red Beans and Rice. Bob Massa and Jeanne Lacoste are doing the Hot Dogs. The Abita Women's Society is preparing baked goods. Geralyn and her husband will be handling the Parade Lineup. Dennis Ledet will be handling the parking in the lot across from the Town Hall. He will be contacting Walley Boories to work with him.

New Business

New Committees/Chairs for 2019

Volunteer Coordinator – Susan Fischer is the chair.

Publicity/Marketing – Gail Ledet is the chair. This committee will coordinate closely with the Development Committee. George Long and Kristen have contact information for news outlets.

Facilities Management – Steve Davis is chair. Dennis Ledet will assist. Martha Gruning is the Town Hall Liaison.

Museum Usage – Committee will coordinate with other community organizations. A checklist for Museum Usage will need to be developed.

Development Committee – Members to date are Catherine Fraser, Ron Blitch and George Long.

By-Laws Committee – No discussion

Use Google Sheets or Drive to access Board documents. Board contact info should be added. It was noted that Committee members do not have to be Board members. Committee Chairs shall be Board members.

Committee Chairs will provide short Committee reports at monthly Board meetings.

Busker Fest

Line Up has been determined. We are still checking on WWOZ Live. Additional money may be required for this item, as it attracts International visitors. 3/24 is the date for Busker Fest, with a rain date of 3/31. Martha has an overview of Busker Fest tasks. Nancy Bernard is sending Farmers Market rates and information to George. Food Vendor Booths are \$130.00 for Busker Fest. Variety and quality screening is a must. **Action Item 3** – Kristen will create a graphic map of the vendor area. **Action Item 4** – George will set up a meeting.

Bike Rack

Stewart would like to pursue upgrading and increasing the number of bike racks in town. Samples of artsy bike racks were provided by Stewart and Ron. It was discussed that we would start with new bike racks at the entrance to the park. These racks would have special features to support the bike's frame, not the bike's wheels. There is an option for a local bike company to provide what we are looking for, which wouldn't require shipping charges. Peggy suggested the Brew Pub may be able to assist with the cost, along with FOP and other businesses in the area. **Action Item 5** – Stewart to do more research and bring these options to next Month's meeting. George added there are vending machines that sell bicycle parts.

Garbage Cans

There are grants available to buy recycling cans. The cans purchased by KAB are not working, because people continue to throw regular trash into the recycle cans. The 2 green cans have proven to be inadequate. The Board will think about purchasing cans better equipped for recycling. **Action Item 6** - Ron will send samples of cans that can do this, and also be fastened to the ground. We will share these ideas with FOB and the Market for garbage cans, bike racks, pooper scoopers and benches.

Addition Items

Covington said they can supply a street sweeper to clean up for the Whole Town Garage Sale.

The En Plein Air dates have changed, and they conflict with Jazz Fest. **Action Item 7** - George will update the website to reflect this change.

Tree plaques were ordered by Courtney and delivered to town hall.

The Tree Program will be reviewed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.