

Abita Springs Trailhead Museum

Board Meeting Minutes for August 27, 2019

Recorded by Gail Ledet

Members Present: George Long, Stewart Eastman, Courtney Blitch, Susan Fischer, Carolyn Boudreaux, Steve Davis, Peggy Scimemi, Martha Gruning and Gail Ledet

Absent with notice: Kristen Wilkinson (resigned), Ron Blitch, GERALYN Lips and Jessica Lotspeich

Absent without notice: Barb Borries, Marian Roper and Bryan Gowland

Guest: Mary Davis

Called to order at 5:00

It was noted that Kristen resigned from the Board this afternoon. Her schedule doesn't allow for participation at the present time.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from July 30, 2019 were accepted as amended by Susan Fischer after a motion by George, and a second by Martha.

Financial Report

TOAS has a new Finance Clerk, Stacy Ludlow. George emailed her about today's meeting, but had not received a response. Martha did meet with Stacy, and gave her an overview of the Museum's operation. Stacy will follow up after she has had the opportunity to review. The Board Officers did meet with the Mayor's staff as well, to review the Museum's operation. A Financial Report was not available from the Town for tonight's meeting.

Old Business

Art Camp

Peggy needs to check with Town Hall, and then confirm with Mr. Hume on the September meeting. The cost of operating this event will require an approval from the Town beforehand.

Docent Schedule

The mentoring went well with the two new docents, and they are signing up for slots. While we have 2 new docents, there are still some gaps in the schedule. The Board was asked to review the schedule, and volunteer when available. Board members were also asked to find docents.

Artists Retrospective

Mary Davis was introduced to the Board and vice versa. Mary is the organizer for our Museum art shows. She will be paid a flat fee for these activities. We are hoping to have 4 events per year - Winter, Spring (En Plein Air), Summer and Fall.

With regards to the Elise Roome show, Donata called Mary, and indicated the show could go on. The paintings for this exhibit will come from the collections of both Donata and Doug Roome.

It was discussed a group retrospective could be accomplished with works by Elise Roome, Ray Buuck, Robert Rucker and Michael Curtis. Other exhibits discussed were Ann O'Brien, Dale Hauck, Town history through photography, John Preble, Dave Kelsey, Bunny Mathews and many more. A jewelry show, such as works by Ann O'Brien, would be nice, but security requirements would need to be determined. Other exhibits discussed were, pottery, quilts and a Native American collection. Peggy said she would donate a quilt to the quilting show as a raffle item. She would also like to serve on that committee. John Preble also suggested the possibility of a Community Art Show.

It was decided the Elise Roome exhibit, would be separate, as she has enough artworks to fill the Museum. The Thanksgiving timeframe was decided upon, so as not to get in the way of the Christmas Village exhibit. Mary will discuss with Donata, and plan for two weekends. It was mentioned there is a Tree Symposium at the Market on November 15. Dates mentioned for the Retrospective were 11/22 through 11/28.

The reception and opening will need to be planned. The Board needs to form a Program Committee. Food contributions could come from the Board and TOAS employees. Barb Borries was mentioned as a great coordinator for these activities.

The Elise Roome Exhibit budget was discussed. We will need to get approval from the Town. We would pay Mary Davis and Claude Ellender flat fees to set up the event. A motion was made by Martha, with a second by Steve, that a budget for the Elise Roome Retrospective, not to exceed \$1,000, with \$500 for Mary Davis fee, \$100 for Claude Ellender fee, \$200 for panels, and \$200 for miscellaneous expenses. The motion passed.

Mary's duties would include locating the art, creating a bio of the artists, along with a press release. The Board would proof and approve. A current list of press is available in google docs.

George said a committee would be formed to create a series of events beginning at the start of the New Year, and acquire a sponsor. These activities would lend themselves to the Development Committee.

Other exhibit items discussed were having display cases down the middle of the Museum. Stewart added while this is a good idea, storage of these cases could be problematic. Perhaps they could be stored in the Utilities Annex.

New Business

Non Profit Status Consideration

Stewart asked that this item be tabled. Martha said she will email info related to this item to the Board.

Archive/Tour Dates

Southeastern - George arranged for a tour on 9/6 to Southeastern. George said the tour would be quick, and will begin at 10:00 AM. Please email George if you intend to participate, and perhaps car pool.

St. Tammany Courthouse - GERALYN has a tentative date for 9/17 for the tour at the Parish. It will begin around 3:30 or 4:00. She will confirm, and get back to the Board with specifics.

ASTM Security Issues

Steve had concerns that with no more police presence in Town, the Museum might be presented with security issues for events George answered for Push Mow, the Town coordinates with the Parish for Police protection. Stewart said he believes the Town paid \$40 per hour for special details. George will be meeting with Janet soon, regarding these items. Any activities that involve street closures requires a meeting with deputies, ASTM representative and the Mayor. We've always had officers on site for the Busker Festival. If a new Sheriff is elected, we should be proactive.

Construction Projects Proposed

George asked if there were any issues from the Board if we worked with the Town on handicap ramp modifications, and signage for the deck and Museum. He wants to discuss concepts and having the Town pay for these enhancements. The long term goal is to replace all of the decks, create an attack walkway for access to cameras and electronics, by laying plywood down. The cost for the plywood should be no more than \$200, for 4 x 8 sheets, cut in half, and screwed down. Susan said she could assist with this effort.

Additional Discussions

It was mentioned the bathroom code is #1243 for either of the bathrooms, They are open from 8:00AM to 8:00PM, and are managed by the Town, using a mobile APP. Martha will discuss the possibility of opening the bathrooms earlier with the Town, to accommodate the bikers.

George also said beginning 9/22, the Market would open from 11:00am until 3:00pm. Perhaps we should modify the Museum hours accordingly.

George said we are up to 1300 on the email list, which he is organizing.

Susan asked about music being made available inside the Museum

again.

Summary of Meeting with Mayor

The Board met at the request of the Town. Stacy Ludlow was introduced to the Board. Purchase orders will be needed by the Town for expenditures by the Board. The Archiving Project was discussed, along with concerns about financials and expenses. The Mayor would like to see the budget prepared by Martha. Niki had prepared this in the past. It was mentioned that KAB has received grant money for a water fountain for the bikers, The Town will install the fountain.

Committees Reports

Push Mow – Positions needed:

Oversee the Push Mow Café

Drinks

Ticket Sales

Town Hall Master

Sign Designer

Traffic Assistant

Service Hour Coordinator

School Lot Clean Up – perhaps the Town would handle

Photographer 10:30am – 2:00pm (\$100)

George has already met with Janet and Joe. The Church is fine with a Sunday parade.

Theme is Unsuitable Science Fair Projects.

Next Push Mow Committee meeting TBD.

On Hold

Meeting adjourned at 6:35.

Next Meeting Tuesday, September 24, 2019