

Minutes from Abita Springs Trailhead Museum meeting
September 29, 2020
Abita Springs Town Hall

Members Present: Courtney Blicht, George Long, Margaret Blicht, Marian Roper, Carolyn Boudreaux, Peggy Scimemi, Stewart Eastman, Martha Gruning

Emeritus Members present: Ron Blicht, Bryan Gowland

Absent with notice: Geralyn Lips, Annie Weaver, Susan Foster, Steve Davis

- Meeting called to order at 5 pm by Courtney Blicht.
- Minutes from the previous meeting were distributed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by George Long, seconded by Marian Roper and the motion was approved.
- Jessie Sumpter, Cultural Events and Marketing Coordinator for the town of Abita Springs, was introduced and made a short presentation, saying this is her “dream job” and she hopes to bring life back to the events in town once the pandemic is under control. Jessie will meet with those who have steered Push Mow, the Garage Sale and other events that are now under the purview of the town. She welcomes feedback and would like to benefit from the experience of those who have worked on these events.
- Constable candidates Byron Armand, Stewart Eastman and Matthew King (I) spoke for 3 minutes each, describing their experience and goals for the office.
- The financial report was compiled by Martha Gruning and presented by Courtney Blicht in Martha’s absence. There was discussion later during the meeting, after Martha’s arrival, as to whether the financial report needs a motion to be approved. Martha will check Robert’s Rules of Order to ascertain whether a motion is necessary. Ron Blicht will check with LeAnn and Stacy Ludlow to look into money from a previous millage election earmarked for parks and the museum.

Old Business

- George Long reported on the preservation project and said that he is becoming more familiar with the archive software and the project is moving forward. The acquisition process is being worked on and George is working out ownership issues with items given to the museum. An assistant is expected to be hired to work 10 hours per month at \$15 an hour to begin cataloging materials. The assistant will work with George to learn the software program.
- An old scrapbook was presented to the museum by Constable Matthew King that contains clippings and photos from the 1960’s. Planning for the oral history project continues.
- Event updates: events continue to be limited due to the pandemic. Bryan Gowland continues to coordinate the musical performances at the Abita Springs Art & Farmers Market. The Busker Festival is scheduled for March 21, 2021; the first Opry performance is scheduled for March 20, 2021; the Garage Sale is scheduled for March 27, 2021 and En Plein Air is scheduled for April 23-25, 2021. Peggy Scimemi has a quilt that can be raffled as a fundraiser in conjunction with a possible quilt exhibit that she hopes can be scheduled in the future. Ron Blicht requested that dates of all events be listed on minutes and agendas of future meetings.

New Business

- The museum was open the last two Sundays during the Farmers Market with about 10-15 people visiting. At Ron Blich's suggestion, George Long will contact the town about promoting the museum opening and the need to fill the two shifts during the Farmers Market.
- The decking around the museum needs to be replaced and the back side of the building needs cleaning and routine maintenance. The estimated cost to replace the deck with Trex came in at \$120,000-\$140,000. There was discussion that the museum is responsible for capital projects, but that routine maintenance is the responsibility of the town. It was suggested that the financial responsibilities should be clearly outlined and codified by a resolution of the Town Council to prevent future confusion about which entity is responsible for maintenance and capital projects.
- Two new prospective board members, Barbie and Larry Bergeron, gave short addresses and were approved by a unanimous vote. Margaret Blich made the motion to accept them as board members and Marian Roper seconded.
- There was discussion about the timing of the beginning of new board members two year terms. It was suggested that new board members serve the unexpired term of the vacant position and begin their two year commitment the following January, which would allow new board members to vote and avoid quorum issues. Anyone who is not planning to continue to serve on the board after their term expires in January 2021 was asked to call Courtney Blich to give her notice.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.