

ABITA SPRINGS TRAILHEAD MUSEUM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES 10/29/2019

Recorded by Geralyn Lips

Members Present: Courtney Blicht, Ron Blicht, Barb Borries, Carolyn Boudreaux, Steve Davis, Susan Fischer, Martha Gruning, Geralyn Lips, George Long, Marian Roper, Peggy Scimemi

Absent with Notice: Bryan Gowland, Gail Ledet, and Stewart Eastman

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from 9/24/2019 were accepted as amended by Martha, correcting the dates for the Elise Roome retrospective from 11/22-11/28 to 11/22-12/1, after a motion by Marian and a second by George.

Financial Report: Martha did receive a financial report from TOAS Finance Clerk, Stacy Ludlow.

- Cash balance of \$30,765.78
- The reason why Cajun Dance income was off in September was because the July event was cancelled due to weather and the August receipts had not yet been posted.
- Monthly income for September was \$1220
- Martha brought up the idea of having an antiques sale as part of Whole Town Garage Sale now that Town Hall is at our disposal

OLD BUSINESS

Poet Laureate Reading: George sent out an email to our new Louisiana Poet Laureate, John Warner Smith, regarding scheduling a reading at the Museum. He also got in touch with the two previous state Poet Laureates to see if they would have an interest in a joint reading along with the present Poet Laureate.

Elise Roome Retrospective

- Mary Davis will be back in town on Thursday and will get the headshot and sample of Elise Roome's work for the online press release. This will also be needed to order the banners, which Ron offered to handle.
- The exhibit will open on 11/22 and run through 12/1. Martha requested volunteers to contribute appetizers
- Martha showed examples of postcards used at other art exhibits. She thought we should consider doing the same for our future exhibits and placing them in retail locations

Busker Festival Photo Exhibit

- Bryan has suggested that we allow photographer Kimberly Hatton-Reid to hold an exhibit and sale in the museum during our 2020 Busker Fest of her black and white photos of buskers.
- She would exhibit up to 30 prints on three different mediums. She would split her proceeds 30/70 where she would keep 70% of the proceeds
- The question came up as to who would actually receive the 30%; the Museum or the Opry. It was decided to table further discussion of this issue until Bryan is available to answer questions

NEW BUSINESS

Summer Art Camp

- Mr. Hume, who would be running the art camp didn't appear at the meeting as scheduled. Further discussion of this event was tabled.
- Peggy has volunteered to make a quilt for the museum to raffle off, and suggested that we hold a quilt exhibit at which the quilt would be raffled. She said we would need to have a goal of making at least \$500 for this handmade quilt.

ASTM Calendar Tutorial

- Martha attempted to show the board how the museums Google calendar works, but was having some technical difficulties with the computer she was using for the tutorial

Extended Hours for Fall Fest

- The Fall Fest being held in the park on Saturday, November 2 will end at 7PM. Discussion was held on the idea of keeping the museum open until 7PM, by adding a 4-7pm docent shift. It was also suggested that we have two longer shifts for the day in lieu of three, with possibly two docents per shift. Martha said she would see if we could get enough docents to make this happen.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Farmers Market Update - Marian

- Six month meeting of the Mayor's committee coming up. They will discuss what's worked and what hasn't.
- Mary Byrd Perkins is planning to set up a cancer awareness booth
- Small scale farmers can bring their produce for purchase by the Farmers Market who will resell it at the market
- Considering trying to have the LSU AgCenter Extension Service show up once a month for demonstrations

Push Mow Update - George

- Meeting was held on 9/30/2019
- 2020 theme will be "Science Fair Projects Gone Wild"
- The parade will be Sunday February 16th, 2020. Janet with TOAS is working with the Sheriffs Office regarding changing the time from 11 AM to 2 PM

Facilities Management - George

- The hanging sign on the Trace has been replaced by Dave Kelsey. The PO was approved by Mayor's office
- A discussion was held regarding hiring someone to clean the museum twice a month. Ron made a motion that we approve up to \$100 a month for cleaning. George seconded the motion. Motion passed without objection. Martha will bring this proposal to Town Hall for approval.

Preservation Committee - George

- Mary Davis needs someone to sit with her, go through her digital files on the computer, and help her to organize them. She will not hand over her personal archive of the Town's history until it is organized.
- The second step would require a good software program. Someone would have to sit with Mary while she identifies the photos. This information would then be recorded so that it will be searchable perhaps for centuries to come.
- A discussion was held about possible candidates to assist Mary with these projects. George will send an email to Rachel Lambert, Janet Dufrene, and the Mayor asking for suggestions.
- A proposal was made to budget 10 hours per week at \$15 dollars per hour for Mary's assistant. Martha will bring that proposal to the Mayor's office for approval

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.