

ASTM Board Meeting Minutes 3/4/20
(February meeting)

Meeting called to order at 5:02 pm

Members present:

Geralyn Lips, Courtney Blicht, George Long, Barb Borries, Martha Gruning, Stewart Eastman, Bryan Gowland, Carolyn Boudreaux, Annie Weaver, Steve Davis

Members Absent with Notice: Ron Blicht, Peg Scimemi, Susan Foster, Marian Roper

Members Absent w/o Notice: Susan Fischer

Visitors: Lynette Soule, Jo Kieffer, John Preble

Minutes from January meeting were approved.

Note change agreed to minutes from 10/29/19 regarding approval of an assistant for Mary Davis to work 10 hours per month at \$15/hr (correction as minutes say 10 hours per week at \$15/hr)

Financial Report (Martha): Total Cash as of 1/31/20 is \$30,170.18 (as of ¾ total is \$35,839.02) Cajun Dance net income for January was \$452.48; Garage Sale fees paid to date \$1,260. The income for January is \$2095.73 and expenses are \$1024.17 for Net Income of \$1071.56. Martha noted that the Gumbo CookOff income from January is not yet shown and she will clarify that the museum should not be paying the Jani King monthly fee of \$187.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cajun Dance Volunteer Update: Lynette Soule and Jo Kieffer asked to present their request for a Museum board volunteer to assist in purchasing and stocking items used to cook and serve menu for each Cajun Dance. They are willing to continue cooking and volunteering on the evening of the dance, but feel that help in this manner is necessary. They provided a list of items needed for the March dance and a suggested schedule for delivery dates prior to each month's dance. The Board discussed the request and agreed to find a volunteer to handle this. (Annie and Stephen Weaver agreed to spearhead this process!) The Board expressed their appreciation for CK, Sandra, Iris, Jo, Lynette and Bryan who work to make the Cajun Dance a great success.

ACTION ITEMS: Board member(s) should start shadowing on the evening of the dance to understand the Concession process; Ice Machine needs to be replaced (town should handle this); Microwave doesn't work (George has the microwave from the museum and will give to the Cajun Dance who will ask that it be locked up in the CD cabinet each week).

George reported on "Website User Data": 2800 visits during February; 2000 of those were related to the Push Mow parade. The Whole Town Garage Sale event page on FB has 3600 Likes and 417 comments, which were primarily individuals reminding other individuals about the event. This is a significant buzz.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Lutheran Church 115th Anniversary Exhibit: Barb is following up with Patrick Freese and will update ASTM board in a few weeks.
- Art Camp: Geralyn and George provided update from Peg via email. John Schwartz was recommended by George as a potential teacher for the camp. Peg will meet with him and feels he would be a good fit. Dates would be the last two weeks of July pending TOAS approval . John's fee would be \$400.
- Quilt Show: The Quilt is almost finished and Peg was wondering if there should be a quilt show or just a raffle. The Board agreed that a Quilt show would be more effective.
- Jewelry Show (Nov. 20 through Dec. 6) Exhibit reception on Nov. 20, 6-9 pm. Jewelry to be picked up on Dec. 7. Martha explained that the museum will need Jewelry Display Cases for a show. John Preble mentioned that the Hotel wants to purchase a few tabletop cases which are surprisingly affordable. He will share the info with Martha and perhaps even allow the museum to use them for the Jewelry Show.
- Dale Hauck Exhibit (July 10-19): Exhibit reception on July 10, 6-9pm. Martha spoke with Mary Davis who will oversee the exhibit with a similar arrangement established for the Elise Room Retrospective. Mary will be responsible for collecting the paintings. The museum would like to sell Dale's work (selections will be identified as "for sale" and the Museum share will be 30%). Hopefully the Museum will remain open during the week of the exhibit.
- Security/Sound System: George provided an update and assured the board that the town is paying for the security system. The new *smart museum* will include light switches, door locks, and remote control of audio, video, lighting and security cameras with sound. A camera will be installed across from the Abita Beer Stage during events for high definition video streaming. There will be a control panel at the front door near the weather station control panel.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Push Mow: 42 entries; \$2300 in entry fees; \$1200 for band; \$350 for sound system at judging stand. Final accounting not received from Stacy. Thank you's written to prize providers- Mama D's, Brew Pub, Abita Café, Auto Zone, Maple street Bakery. Children's costume prizes provided by Courtney (gift cards to Barnes and Noble/art supplies).
Having Push Mow on Sunday along with the regular Farmers Market provides a built-in audience, festive atmosphere and a variety of food selections.
Thank you to all volunteers contributing to this successful 2020 parade. George plans to schedule a follow-up committee meeting in the next few weeks.
- Busker Fest: Bryan says musicians are confirmed and will be paid \$600 each this year. The flyer is shared on Abita Springs Bulletin Board. George will pick up the poster at the printer on Friday, March 6. Need to get checks from TOAS for sound system rental (\$600) and sound technician (\$375?) Geryllyn says there are eleven vendors signed up and had no complaints regarding increase to \$150 for booth rental.
Beverage Booth is the only booth sponsored by the museum and volunteers are needed. The Booth should be set up by 10 am for sales. Martha believes that Anne and Milton Hernandez will help. Geryllyn still needs volunteers in a variety of areas- Stewart says he can help with setup; Carolyn will help as museum docent (switching from Saturday to Sunday- Barbara Jackson will cover Saturday shift). George says Paul Brawley is also available.
- Garage Sale: Booth fees as of March 4 total \$3,640; 82 vendors have applied for 115 spaces; 50 vendors have paid for 79 spaces as of March 4. Volunteers for space markings etc? (get names from Martha)
- En Plein Air: Update via email from Ron Blich- 19 artists have signed up to participate; \$1500 sponsorship from Cleco (thanks to George for completing the application and Ron for contacting them). Banners have been printed. Volunteers are needed to set up the show on Friday April 24. Ron will need help with printing identifying labels for paintings- last year this was done in the museum office.

ACTION ITEM: Susan Foster to get publicity information from Ron and begin distribution.

Friday evening reception (6-9 pm) will be coordinated by Barb; contact volunteers and TOAS for reception food; Courtney has some paper products remaining for bar.

COMMITTEE REPORTS Cont'd:

- Farmers Market: No report
- Facilities Management: No report
- Preservation Committee: Courtney provided background history leading to the establishment of this committee, including visits to Southeastern University Archives and the 22nd Judicial court archives of St. Tammany Parish. Mary Davis and John Preble have been in discussion regarding the formation of an archive supported/sponsored by ASTM. The Board suggested, and Mary agreed, to form a Preservation Committee with Mary's recommendation of the following members: an ASTM Board member, Mary Davis, Dr. Sandy Quinn and Loretto O'Reilly.
- Mary Davis thought a starting point would be to organize her digital photo library and the board approved the hiring of an assistant to work with her (10 hrs/month at \$15/hr). The Board has been inquiring about someone appropriate and believe that one individual may be interested.

ACTION ITEM: Annie will research software programs for organizing the digital library. Once this is determined, the process will move forward.

- The ASTM board has agreed that our focus should be on "preservation", not establishing an archive which requires conditioned, staffed and monitored space open to the public. Until we have a physical space to store gathered documents, we will support Mary in organizing the historic photos and documents she currently has.
- John Preble requested time to address the ASTM Board during tonight's meeting: According to John, The Museum Board has not done enough to preserve the culture and history of Abita Springs. He stated that the ASTM Board focuses on the obstacles deterring the establishment of a true archive and that we are more interested in hosting parties than gathering historical documents, (including audio histories of older residents). He believes that Mary won't share her digital library. John suggests that the museum purchase old Abita photos that come up for sale on eBay. John says he will start the process of collected audio histories by interviewing Iris Salzer (using his prepared "Preble type questionnaire"). He said the board will be surprised with how easy this project is.
- Docents: Martha reinforced that there is still a need for docents during some weekends, including the Busker Festival. Please check the calendar and volunteer if possible.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm

Respectfully submitted by Courtney Blich, Co-President, ASTM