

# **Abita Springs Trailhead Museum (ASTM) Board Meeting Minutes 5pm, Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at the Museum**

Minutes taken by George Long, Secretary

Members Present: Martha Gruning, George Long, Stewart Eastman, Courtney Blich, Marian Roper, Ron Blich (Emeritus)

Absent with notice: Bryan Gowland (Emeritus)

- Meeting called to order at 5pm by President Courtney Blich
- Marian moved that minutes of the November 30, 2021 meeting be approved. Martha seconded the motion, which was approved.
- Marian moved that minutes of the December 28, 2021 meeting be approved. Martha seconded the motion, which was approved.
- Financial report by Marian: Account balance \$34,186.57 as of November 30, 2021 but income from the Wreath Auction is not fully understood.
- 2022 Board member nominees presented themselves to the current board. An election was held and votes will be counted by Ron Blich after the meeting ends. Geralyn Lips was elected as an Emeritus Board Member.
- MOTION by Martha, Seconded by Marian, Passed: Election of Officers to be postponed until the February meeting allowing time for new board members to be elected and approved by Mayor Curtis and familiarize themselves with all potential candidates.

## **Unfinished Business**

- Martha updated the board on the Dale Hauck retrospective art exhibit which is scheduled for May 13 through May 29, 2022 with an opening reception on May 13. Board members and docent volunteers are encouraged to participate during the exhibit so that the museum may remain open on weekends and weekdays. Dale Hauck will contribute 30% of his sales to the museum.
- Martha updated the board on The Gumbo Cookoff which has been rescheduled for March 12, 2022. She will secure a beer permit as the museum will be selling beer during the event.
- Martha updated the board on the upcoming Choctaw Conversations with Francis Broussard. The presentation focuses on local history and is scheduled for February 13, 2022 at 4 pm. The museum will host a reception following the event. The new name of the event is The Archaeology of Abita Springs and the Florida Parishes. ACTION ITEM: Martha will get text and graphics from Francis in order to promote his event. ACTION ITEM: Martha will contact the Bogalusa Museum to secure their current email list used for notification of upcoming events.

- Ron updated the board on the En Plein Air Exhibition scheduled for April 29 through May 1, 2022. The museum will host a reception on April 29 from 6-9 pm. The exhibit will be open during the reception as well as on Saturday and Sunday from 10am-3pm. Niki has agreed to serve on Ron's committee.

Stewart said he contacted the state ethics commission for a ruling on whether or not a museum board member could participate in En Plein Air and receive money from the sale of their artwork. The commission said they would have an answer available by February 4th.

## **New Business**

- Courtney reported that Geralyn Lips and Steve Davis have resigned. MOTION by George, seconded by Marian, passed: Geralyn Lips to be granted Emeritus status.

- Martha reported that the Town has offered for us to host concessions at the proposed Songwriters' Showcase, a new event, which could occur twice annually. Tentative dates are April 23 and October 1. MOTION by Stewart, seconded by Marian, passed: we accept the offer. ACTION ITEM: Martha will communicate our agreement to Town administrators.

- George updated info from Bryan about the Busker Festival, including our previous agreement to pay \$600 for the sound system, selection and positioning of hot food vendors, and the sale of beer and wine during the event, scheduled for April 3, 2022 with a rain date of April 10. Geralyn has agreed to continue with oversight of the hot food vendors.

- George reported that the Mac Mini computer mounted behind our video monitor is not functioning well. ACTION ITEM: George will look into replacement. Expected cost for a new one is \$699. MOTION by George and seconded by Stewart, passed: approved up to \$700 to replace the computer. ACTION ITEM: Ron will research the possibility of getting a whiteboard touchscreen for the museum.

- George reported we no longer require the wearing of a mask by visitors. They will remain available along with sanitizer. Docents have expressed resistance to volunteering during the COVID-19 outbreaks. George sanitizes door handles and surfaces when possible. Jani-King cleans weekly on Thursday evenings.

- Courtney reported that Brenda Strain Lanier made a generous donation of a book called Abita Springs Louisiana "The First Hundred Years" 1903 - 2003 (A Collection of Remembrances, Folklore & History By Edward Arnold Strain). Edward was Brenda's father. The book will be sold in the museum for \$5.00.

Stewart expressed hope that we could create an Abita Springs cookbook. ACTION ITEM: Stewart will attempt to find a cookbook that was made previously and bring it to the February meeting in order to explore the possibility of our creating one.

- Courtney reminded board members that the state's mandated ethics certificates are due.
- Stewart made a MOTION, seconded by Martha, passed: to amend our agenda in order to discuss the possibility of our hosting an event with the poet laureate of Baton Rouge, Jonathan Mayers. ACTION ITEM: Stewart will contact him with a proposed date of March 20 at 4pm. Stewart will contact the Lacombe museum to request their email list in order to promote the event.

George mentioned that Emily McDaniel is actively working on our Preservation Project. She is using the archive management software CatalogIt for 10 hours per month and is being paid \$15/hour by us.

Next board meeting is scheduled for 5pm on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.