

## **Abita Springs Trailhead Museum**

Board Meeting Minutes for March 26, 2019

Recorded by Gail Ledet

Members Present: Martha Gruning, George Long, Stewart Eastman, GERALYN LIPS, Courtney Blitch, Barb Borries, Susan Fischer, Bryan Gowland, Carolyn Boudreaux, Marian Roper, Jessica Lotspeich, Catherine Fraser, Peggy Scimemi, Ron Blitch and Gail Ledet

Absent with notice: Steve Davis and Kristen Wilkinson

Guest: Event planner, Andrew Maher, was introduced by George Long.

Called to order at 5:00

### **Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from February 26, 2019 minutes were accepted with changes after a motion and second by George and Marian.

### **Financial Report**

While Niki wasn't present for the meeting, a report was provided. Everything was added, with the exception of revenue, which GERALYN said would be entered in the next report. It was mentioned that all beverages were sold at Busker Fest, and that the cost of the Busker Fest banners were not included in the report.

### **Old Business**

#### **Budget (Bank Balance/Revenue/Expenditures)**

Martha presented and explained the budget. The bottom line for 2018 was \$14,557 and \$20,335 for 2019. It was noted the budget does not include capital improvements, the bike rack or going solar.

#### **Bike Rack**

Susan reported she has heard nothing back from her contact. Stewart also reported his local contact, Brooks, is still working on a prototype, and indicated the concept is harder than it looks. Stewart also provided a price from Belsom Outdoors, for the decorative rack, 2 bikes per rack, of \$1,423.74. This does not include installation. A motion was made by Stewart, with a second by Barb to order two. The motion was withdrawn, and reentered by Barb to order two of the bike racks in black, with a second by Carolyn, which passed.

#### **Elise Roome Art Retrospective/May 10**

Donata Henry stated due to scheduling issues, she could not do the exhibit in May. It was decided to wait until the September timeframe for this exhibit. We should firm up the date ahead of time. George is interested in preparing a series of exhibits from local artists. Ron said twice a year would be appropriate for this type of endeavor at ASTM. **Action Item 1** – George will start the planning for this.

### **Busker Fest Update – March 24, 11:30am – 7:00pm**

Bryan reported the Busker Fest was PERFECTION! The weather, music and food were all great. Bryan will be applying for the Jazz Fest grant once again. The Opry and ASTM committees worked well together. Bryan indicated the preliminary date for next year, while tentative, is 3/22, with a rain date of 3/29. It was mentioned that Kimberly Hatten Reid, a local photographer, would be ideal to photograph the Festival activities. ASTM has funds that could support a photographer for the Busker Festival. If we use Kimberly, we could exhibit her work in the Museum at the same time. She is on Facebook, if anyone would like to check her out. There was a small issue, in that we didn't provide an ice chest on stage for the performers. This was noted for next year. GERALYN had the Food Vendor list, and was accepting comments from the Board, which were all favorable. It was suggested we have an ATM machine or card reader available to assist with collecting monies from the attendees. This will be discussed in detail with the Busker Fest Committee. Courtney reported the Market Vendors did well, and some reported record sales. **Action Item 2** – Amend the applications for the market vendors to close up at 6:30PM. There were traffic issues that should be addressed on Highways 59 and 36. Perhaps a police officer should be hired, along with better accommodations for handicapped patrons. The Busker Fest committee will also be looking into shading the area in front of the stage. It was noted by Stewart that people were sitting in the road behind the Trailhead area, which blocked the street. It was discussed that bleachers may be needed to be placed in front of the fence. Ron spoke to the Mayor about the condition of the Pavilion, and perhaps a walkthrough with Martha could take place to address parking and garbage for upcoming events. Bryan added the Mayor was supportive, and local businesses were slammed. It was noted that the Mayor has ideas that include Dave Blossman and the Brewery. **Action Item 3** – Develop a check list and timeline for this event.

### **Whole Town Garage Sale – March 30**

Martha reported there are 79 registered vendors with 86 spaces already paid. She is still receiving 2 – 3 applications per day. She needs a better system for assigning slots. The current application process generates three emails to each vendor. We should be able to accept credit card payments online. Martha is asking for additional help, and Catherine stepped up. Martha asked for help with labels on Friday morning, as well as marking spots. Gail and Dennis volunteered to mark spots. Stewart and Carolyn offered to help in anyway needed. GERALYN, as well as Jessica, could be available to help out Friday afternoon, for 3 – 5:30 check in, and putting out parking signs. Susan Fisher is also available to help out Martha early Saturday morning, with check-in, that begins at 4:45 AM. Joe is handling the barricades this year. Martha speaks to all of the vendors during the sale, as she walks around with litter grabbers. The Boy Scouts will be in the school parking lot, and Eddie Stronmeyer will help them with parking. **Action Item 4** – Develop a check list and timeline for this event.

### **Outdoor Garbage Cans for Museum**

Leanne ordered the two garbage cans, one with a rain guard, and one without.

### **En Plein Air – April 26 – April 28**

Ron showed everyone in attendance the postcards, with Phil Sandusky's work. 22 artists are listed on the postcards, with an additional 4 or 5 artists being in the show. If there are any new artists interests, they must go through Ron Blich for approval. Weekend help is needed for the event. A sign-up sheet was passed around. Help is needed on Wednesday from 10 -2, Thursday all day, as artists are hanging their work, Friday reception (set up 4 – 6, event 6-9, and then break down), Saturday afternoon and Sunday for sales. **Action Item 5** – Hang the En Plein Air banners.

### **Volunteer Party – April 27**

The crawfish contact called, and needed to nail down specific of event. The event will be catered, and is thought to be planned for 100 people. This event will be for adults only. Walley Borries will do the invitations – please provide Barb with information. It was decided we would not have the Poet Laureate on the day of the Volunteer Party as originally discussed. Catherine suggested we have someone else handle this event, and that Martha not be in charge of coordinating this event. It was decided we would use an event planner for the event. **Action Item 6** – Decide and hire an event planner for the Volunteer Party – Courtney and Catherine.

### **Solar Power –**

Actual bills were available from last year. The Town pays the electrical expenses for the Museum. It is unknown if Cleco has done an energy analysis. The Town Hall is set to 65 degrees late at night. Temperatures are programmed appropriately for exhibits. Information was passed to Leanne and Aces. Two solar companies will be contacted; SunPro and one other to be determined. We will wait until our events are behind us before proceeding. This is a Town decision, not an ASTM decision. Historical restrictions dictate that solar panels cannot face the street. It was thought that the ASTM develop a resolution in favor of Solar Panels, and this could be PR gold.

### **Field Trip Friday -**

The local Montessori School will be at the Museum Friday, March 28. Vincent will be there as our docent.

### **April 3 –**

Degas Society will stop by ASTM.

### **April 15 –**

Audubon Montessori will be at the museum in the morning.

### **Summer Camp -**

Peggy reported the 2 art teachers planned are no longer available. She could hold the camp, if she had another volunteer to work with her. Dates for the camps are TBD, and need coordination with Town Hall. GERALYN suggested older art students could assist with camp. It was suggested something be noted on our FB page to ask interested Art Teachers contact Peggy. The fee is \$65 per child.

**Additional Busker Festival note -**

There was a message on FB that stated we are not truly a Busker Festival, as some of our participants do not have lifestyles consistent with true Buskers.

**New Business**

None discussed

**Committees Reports**

Docent Recruiting -

Publicity -

Facilities -

Community Organization (Museum Usage)

Development -

By-Laws -

Town Hall Liaison -

Programming -

No reports given, as meeting went long.

**Meeting adjourned.**