

## **Abita Springs Trailhead Museum**

Board Meeting Minutes for September 24, 2019

Recorded by Gail Ledet

Members Present: Stewart Eastman, Courtney Blitch, Susan Fischer, Carolyn Boudreaux, Steve Davis, Martha Gruning, Barb Borries, GERALYN Lips and Gail Ledet. George arrived while the meeting was in progress.

Absent with notice: Jessica Lotspeich (resigned), Marian Roper, Peg Scimemi, and Ron Blitch.

Absent without notice: Bryan Gowland

Guest: Mary Davis

Called to order at 5:05

It was noted that Jessica resigned from the Board.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from August 27, 2019 were accepted as amended with corrections from Martha Gruning, after a motion by Barb, and a second by Carolyn.

### **Financial Report/Budget Update/Fees**

Martha reviewed the figures and noted that Cajun Dance receipts seem low. She did not see revenue for posted for either July or August. She will follow up with Stacy on this. It was again stated TOAS wants to be made aware of large expenditures (example would be exhibits), before they occur, and a Purchase Order will be required for all purchases. Martha will ask TOAS what is expected to go into the maintenance fee category next year.

### **Old Business**

#### **Docent Schedule**

Please remember to check the Docent Schedule and sign up when possible. Please remember with the Sunday Market time change, Sunday's will now have a 2.5 hr. shift to cover the 11 -4.

#### **Archive Tour Southeastern**

George emailed a recap of this tour to the ASTM Board. There were three options:

- 1) True Archive – Cost would be high, and would adhere to Federal Guidelines
- 2) Donate historic documents to Southeastern (original documents will not be returned) and reproductions will be used for exhibits
- 3) Preserve our items in a better way. Space is the issue. Perhaps there is space in Town Hall. Mary Davis has a digital archive. It was discussed finding a volunteer, perhaps a student to work with Mary to help organize – computer assistance is a requirement.

### **Archive Tour St. Tammany Courthouse**

Geralyn provided a write up of the tour to Board Members. Robin Perkins did a wonderful job with the tour. Robin said ASTM will need to know what we have, before the appropriate archiving method can be determined. Mary has a number of items in her home. A committee should be formed to move these items from Mary's house. Mary indicated she would work on this as a volunteer. **Action Item 1** – Geralyn and Mary will meet and review and see what can be moved to TOAS. **Action Item 2** – Move boxes from Mary's house to TOAS, with the assistance of a volunteer, preferably an Abita student at a reasonable rate. **Action Item 3** – Archive Committee - Perform Inventory of items and determine scope of project mission

### **Artists Retrospective – Elise Roome**

Mary Davis has photographed Donata and Doug's collection, and indicated there is more than enough material for a show. The exhibit will be the last two weekends in November, 11/22 – 11/28. There will be an opening night reception. The Board-approved \$1000 for the exhibit will be allocated to this event. Barb will work with the Food Committee, but she is unable to be there. Mary will design and order the banners, and George will do an email blast. Publicity Committee will send out Press Release provided by Mary. Mary will bring materials to the October meeting.

### **Construction Projects Proposal Update**

There were three updates –

- 1) There is no need to discuss the attic walkway with the Town.
- 2) There has been no progress to report on the ramp.
- 3) The ASTM sign needs to be replaced. George spoke to Dave Kelsey regarding this item. It would cost about \$600 to replace. A second sign at the end was also brought up. Martha made a motion, with a second by Carolyn to replace the Museum sign according to Dave Kelsey's price of \$600. Motion passed. This will be presented to the mayor for approval, and a PO will be required.

Mary needs to be reminded not to proceed with purchasing a banner until Martha approaches the Town. **Action Item 4 – Martha will go to the Town with this request.**

### **New Business**

#### **Non Profit Status Consideration**

Martha distributed the documents previously gathered to the Board for review. The steps to form a 501c3 appear to be pretty straight forward. Pros and cons to this designation were discussed. We will review this possibility at a later date.

#### **Program Suggestion – New Louisiana Poet Laureate**

The LEH announced the appointment of John Warner Smith, the first African American man appointed as Louisiana Poet Laureate. He looks forward to helping Louisianans explore and engage with poetry. We will keep this in mind as a possible event next year. **Action Item 5** – George will contact Mr. Warner Smith now.

### **Curated Art Show proposed by Anthony Donato**

Anthony is proposing a photography show at the Museum where he will act as curator.

### **Committees Reports**

Push Mow Committee meeting is scheduled for 9/30, 6:00, at the Museum.

### **On Hold**

Art Camp Update – Mr. Hume will speak at a later date.

Farmers Market Update – There are new vendors, and the Market seems busy.

### **Additional Discussion**

Sam Hyde from Southeastern may be on a future agenda.

Water Fountain – Martha reported KAB has acquired a new water fountain that will accommodate bikers via a \$1200 grant. The old fountain will be removed and replaced with the new fountain by TOAS. The new fountain, however, will block the existing bulletin board. A new location for the bulletin board is to be found. A free standing kiosk was mentioned. The Board agreed that the kiosk could be considered for the future, but for now agreed that the bulletin board should be moved to the Trace side of the building, and placed on the right hand side of the entry door.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:55.**

**Next Meeting Tuesday, October 29, 2019**