

Abita Springs Trailhead Museum Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 25, 2021  
Abita Springs Park, Abita Beer Stage  
Minutes taken and transcribed by Margaret Blitch, Secretary

Members Present: Martha Gruning, Steve Davis, Marian Roper, Margaret Blitch, George Long, Stewart Eastman

Guests Present: Emily McDaniel

Absent with notice: Courtney Blitch, Geralyn Lips

- Meeting called to order at 5 pm by Vice President Martha Gruning.
- Martha Gruning moved that minutes of the April 27, 2021 meeting be approved. George Long seconded the motion, which was approved.
- Financial report submitted by Marian Roper: beginning balance of \$29,799.04 as of April 30, 2021. Expenditures were \$100 donation to Keep Abita Beautiful for plants and \$62.60 for Brinks Security. The account earned \$2.42 in interest and a \$47 donation was deposited. Current balance is \$29,746.04

**Old Business**

- Preservation Project Update: George Long reports that we are waiting for approval on the contract for CatalogIt from the Town of Abita Springs legal advisor Ed Deano. He has to review the software license. TOAS staff have suggested a virtual meeting with CatalogIt representatives to have questions answered.
- Two new docents, Rachel Harmeyer and Mark Leonard, have volunteered. George suggested that the museum begin opening on Saturdays and the docent on duty also work on entering data into the archive. However, Martha Gruning cautions that expanding hours will be a challenge until there are more docents committed to staff the museum. She will distribute a spreadsheet with sign up information.

*ACTION ITEM:* Martha will send a spreadsheet to board members that shows available docent shifts

- Emily McDaniel was introduced. Emily is an LSU graduate student pursuing a master's degree in Library Science with an interest in archival studies. She has experience processing, arranging, and entering descriptions of collections into an archival system. Emily is a candidate for the staff position the museum hopes to fill.
- There are ongoing meetings with TOAS staff to resolve their concerns about the language of agreements with museum donors.
- Museum reopening on Sundays: There has been substantial traffic through the museum since reopening. The Abita Springs Art and Farmers Market is doing a thriving business on Sundays and that is encouraging visits to the museum. It was suggested that Bryan Gowland plug the museum from the bandstand before introducing the musical entertainment. The regular Sunday afternoon docent can no longer volunteer.

## **New Business**

- Museum maintenance: George Long reports improvements in biweekly maintenance since a new franchisee has taken over the JaniKing contract with the town. George and Steve Davis implemented improvements and clean up to the St. Tammany Trace side of the museum. Martha Gruning will contact Lisa Maddox, who coordinates maintenance work on the Trace, to get approval for maintenance work that involves the Trace.

*ACTION ITEM:* Martha will call Lisa Maddox

- Busker Festival update: George Long reports that Bryan Gowland will coordinate with John Preble who will create a poster and flier for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Busker Festival. ASTM receives proceeds from poster sales.

*ACTION ITEM:* George Long will contact Bryan Gowland to begin the process to have the poster created.

- By-laws revision: Martha Gruning is waiting for a response from Leanne Schaefer, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the Town of Abita Springs, who is reviewing the revisions.
- Quilt Show: Martha Gruning reports that because the renovations to Town Hall may not be complete by November, the proposed Quilt Exhibit cannot be scheduled at this time. Martha suggests we discuss this in the Fall and set a date for the exhibit sometime in the Spring.
- Dale Hauck exhibit: The dates for the exhibit, November 19- December 5, have been approved by Town Hall. The exhibit will encompass 3 weekends and 2 full weeks.
- Tree Plaques Installation: 2 memorial plaques have been stored at Town Hall waiting for approval to be installed at the base of trees. One more plaque is in the pipeline but has not been ordered.
- Cajun Dance: The North Shore Cajun Dance group will resume monthly dances at Town Hall on September 18, 2021. In the past, a group has run a concession table with proceeds benefiting ASTM. Martha Gruning will touch base with the group to inquire about future concession sales.

*ACTION ITEM:* Martha will reach out to the group of women who previously ran the concession table to discuss. Martha will also call Bryan Gowland to gauge interest of other groups to take over concession sales.

- Stewart Eastman suggested that more effort go into having ASTM serve as a welcome and visitors center for the town. He said the old visitors brochure is outdated. Martha Gruning suggested a 'Meet and Greet' to welcome and outreach to new residents. Margaret Blitch mentioned that the town gives new residents a packet of general information when they establish a utility account. Martha will check to see what information on ASTM is included in the packet.

*ACTION ITEM:* Martha Gruning will coordinate placement of appropriate ASTM informational material in the new residents packet.

- There will be no meeting in June or July. The next meeting is August 31, 2021.
- Martha Gruning moves and Marian Roper seconds a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 pm.

Upcoming Events:

Busker Festival – September 19, 2021

En Plein Air - November 12 – 14, 2021

Other events:

Abita Springs Opry – September 18, 2021

October 16, 2021

November 20, 2021

Abita Fall Fest- November 16, 2021