

# DRAFT

Abita Springs Trailhead Museum Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 27, 2021  
Abita Springs Park, Abita Beer Stage  
Minutes taken and transcribed by Margaret Blicht, Secretary

Members Present: Courtney Blicht, George Long, Marian Roper, Margaret Blicht, Martha Gruning, Steve Davis; Stewart Eastman -arrived at 6 pm

Emeritus Members Present: Ron Blicht

- Meeting called to order at 5:02 PM by President Courtney Blicht.
- A motion to accept the minutes of the March 30, 2021 meeting was made by Marian Roper and seconded by Steve Davis. The motion was approved.
- A financial report was presented by Marian Roper. Regarding discussion at the previous meeting of the expense of the exterior bathroom renovation: this was shown as an expense by the Town of Abita Springs and was not charged to the museum. The financial report shows a balance of \$29,859.18 as of April 27, 2021. The only expenses for the month were for Brinks Security Service and the final bill for ATT/Uverse. The account earned a small amount of interest.

## Old Business

- Preservation Project: George Long reported that Ron Barthet is otherwise engaged and will not be able to help in the near future but will be of assistance when he has more free time. The subscription for CatalogIt will be finalized after review and approval by town attorney Ed Deano.
- The museum will continue to open only on Sundays from 11 am – 3 pm. Approximately 50 people have visited each Sunday since the reopening on April 11, 2021. Board members are encouraged to volunteer as docents. There was discussion of hiring someone to help staff the museum when the schedule expands.

*ACTION ITEM:* Martha Gruning will contact Town Hall to ask that an appeal for docents be placed on the town's electronic sign. Courtney Blicht will be the contact person to receive calls from potential docents generated by the request on the sign.

There was additional discussion on the recommendation to institute memberships to the museum and the possibility that memberships could attract volunteers to serve as docents. There was preliminary discussion of membership benefits and whether an "exclusive" level membership would negatively impact the diversity and inclusive nature of Abita Springs events.

- Directional signs on Totem Pole in the park: In order to fulfil the requirement that advertisers listed on the Totem Pole enter into contracts with the town, there was discussion that Town of Abita Springs Finance Clerk Stacy Ludlow be consulted to help with background on previous arrangements with advertisers.

*ACTION ITEM:* Martha Gruning will follow up with town staff on formalizing contracts for the signs and obtaining background information on previous arrangements.

*ACTION ITEM:* George Long will contact Leanne Schaefer, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the Town of Abita Springs, to create contracts for the advertisers on the Totem Pole.

## New Business

- Carolyn Boudreaux has resigned from the board because of health challenges. Carolyn would like to continue to be involved with the museum as a docent and volunteer. Peg Scimemi has resigned from the board, citing family commitments but would like to assist with the proposed quilt exhibit. Barbie Bergeron has resigned from the board, leaving the position of vice president open. George Long nominated Martha Gruning as vice president. The nomination was seconded by Steve Davis and approved.
- Busker Festival (September 19, 2021) update: Geralyn Lips has contacted 11 hot food vendors from previous years; 8 have responded. She will provide them with applications. The \$150 fee will be due at the end of May. Set-up, signage, volunteers and possible sale of posters and mugs will be discussed at the May meeting.  
*ACTION ITEM:* Geralyn will send the vendor application to the town attorney for approval and will coordinate vendor placement with the market manager.  
*ACTION ITEM:* George Long will contact John Preble to discuss designing the Busker Festival flier.  
*ACTION ITEM:* Courtney Blich will contact volunteers for museum duty during the Busker Fest.
- En Plein Air: Ron Blich reports the exhibit will take place on October 1, 2, 3, 2021 with the reception scheduled for October 1.
- By-laws revision: Martha Gruning reports the revisions are currently being reviewed by Leanne Schaefer. She previously sent the revisions to George Long and Geralyn Lips for edits.
- Dale Hauck exhibit: An exhibit of the work of this artist with ties to Abita Springs has tentatively been scheduled for November 19 – 28, 2021. Mary Davis has volunteered to assist.  
*ACTION ITEM:* Martha Gruning will check with Town Hall staff to coordinate a date and check with Mr. Hauck.
- Quilt exhibit: discussion continues with those involved. Martha Gruning has been in contact with Becky Hill and Tracy Kennan with NOMA, which has previously sponsored a quilt exhibit. Tentative dates discussed were November 12, 13 and 14, 2021. This will depend on when renovations to the town hall are complete.
- Vanishing Wetlands exhibit: George Long reported on the possibility of a multi-media exhibit featuring photographs, videos and lectures focused on vanishing wetlands in Louisiana. George participated in a Zoom meeting where some interest was expressed but no contact has been made yet. George says this could be a possible spring event.

The next meeting is May 25, 2021

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm.

ASTM Events:

Busker Festival: September 19, 2021

En Plein Air: October 1 – 3, 2021

Other events:

Abita Springs Opry: September 18, 2021

October 16, 2021

November 20, 2021

Abita Fall Fest: November 6, 2021