

Abita Springs Trailhead Museum (ASTM) Board Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2023

Minutes taken by Courtney Blicht

Members Present: George Long, Courtney Blicht, Niki Mendow, Felicia Walker, Stewart Eastman,
Emeritus: Ron Blicht, Geralyn Lips, (Melissa Smith arrived late)

Absent with notice: Martha Gruning

Absent without notice: Calissa Folse

- Meeting called to order at 5:03pm by President George Long
- Niki moved that minutes of the April 2023 meeting be approved. Courtney seconded the motion, which was approved.
- Financial report by Martha Gruning, Treasurer, via text to George
Account balance is \$56,288.80 as of May 1, 2023. En Plein Air artists have not yet been paid. Martha reported that the LAMP account earned \$8.74 interest over the previous four months. She will provide an update later this summer.

Unfinished Business

- En Plein Air final report: A debriefing dinner was held to discuss issues including possibly having too many artists participating but overall the consensus was that it was a great show and provided good income for the museum. The event's reception was excellent with good attendance and great food/drink offerings. Ron requested dates for the 2024 event from Janet Dufrene. First choice is April 12-14, with a second choice of April 19-21. It will be our 15th anniversary for the event.
- Museum renovations/display cabinets: Still to be completed is the installation of three electrical outlets in the middle of the floor. Tape lighting inside cabinets will match the color temperature of the track lighting via a remote control for each cabinet. Docents will use the remotes to turn them on and off also. Cabinets must be removed from Tellus Storage by May 31.
- Beer steins: Stewart said approximately 30 steins will be on display August 25 - September 3 and another nine during his presentation on August 27th at 4pm. It is to be entitled 'The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly'. Felicia created a group text for the committee to communicate about the event. Stewart, Felicia, Niki, Calissa, and Melissa are members of the event committee. Felicia has asked Stewart to provide her with his bio. Niki will introduce the presentation and the committee will determine whether or not to serve refreshments.

ACTION ITEM: Stewart and the committee will provide an update with event details, including plans for PR, coordinating with town event planners, reception information, and volunteer recruitment for setup and breakdown.

- St. Tammany statue: Stewart provided an informative presentation explaining the origins of Saint Tammany in his effort to gain support throughout the parish for the erection of a statue of St. Tammany. Ron recommended half-jokingly that they consider changing the event to 'Saints & Steins'.

New Business

- Archives meeting report: George has facilitated a meeting scheduled for May 31 of Melissa, Martha, and Rachel Harmeyer with Mary Davis to begin the process of cataloging her collection. The Town has decided to not accept the shaving horse offered to the Museum from Sam Urrate because of storage issues.
- Meeting with the Mayor: No meeting has occurred yet but George hopes to discuss the status of the totem. George met with an artist/craftsman, Kevin Martino, who casually offered pricing for renovation of each totem arrow for \$55 and \$100 for the sun fan at the top of the pole. George said he needs to secure commitments from advertisers before renovation begins.

ACTION ITEM: George will provide an update at the September board meeting.

George will also request that installation of the floor outlets be approved and confirm that Farmers Market vendors will use the public bathrooms instead of ours.

- George met with the Town's event staff: Angie, Monique, and Taylor at the museum. Stacy oversees that staff. He said each has different talents and areas of focus. He walked through the park with them, explained tech capabilities, discussed potential for events in the museum, park, and pavilion. Niki asked George if the event staff would be able to handle public relations for the museum after George is no longer on the Board next year. He said transitioning administration duties for the Facebook pages of Push Mow and the Whole Town Garage Sale have already occurred. He said a transition for our Trailhead Museum and En Plein Air Facebook pages, as well as our website, will happen closer to the end of 2023.
- Future programming: George solicited board members to provide creative ideas by adding to the programming list in Google Drive. Some ideas on the list include a presentation by Ron Barthet, theatrical readings, and a children's event. George said he'd love to see us eventually develop driving and walking audio tours. Geralyn suggested that each Board member indicate their top five choices for future programming at the next meeting.
- Docent engagement: Martha communicated with one new potential docent. She expressed concern that Farmers Market staff often leave the museum door open when no docent is present. She said the Town is creating an office within the new building next door and reiterated that vendors and their children should use the outside bathrooms.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: 6:02PM, moved by Niki, seconded by Courtney. Motion approved.