

## **Abita Springs Trailhead Museum (ASTM) Board Meeting Minutes April 19, 2023 at the home of George Long and Courtney Blich**

Minutes taken by Courtney Blich

Members Present: George Long, Courtney Blich, Niki Mendow, Ron Blich, Felicia Walker, Calissa Folsie, Stewart Eastman, Melissa Smith, GERALYN LIPS

Absent with notice: Martha Gruning

- Meeting called to order at 5:02pm by President George Long
  
- Niki moved that minutes of the March 2023 meeting be approved. Calissa seconded the motion, which was approved.
  
- Financial report by Martha Gruning, Treasurer, via text to George  
Account balance is \$39,047.05 as of April 14, 2023.  
Cleco check has finally been deposited. \$500 from Fall Fest was also added to our account.  
**ACTION ITEM:** Martha will get more info regarding \$2,547.53 transferred into our account (LAMP), which was a capital outlay in order for our account to receive interest.

### **Unfinished Business**

- En Plein Air update: Ron said most paintings have been delivered. Volunteers have offered to help throughout the weekend. Artists may pick up their work after 2pm Sunday. In case of rain, the bar will be set up on the back porch, food on the front deck as usual. He said Lynnette has done a great job on publicity, with a great article in the Times-Picayune. Posters were posted around town and our social media presence was good. Ron invited Cleco's President, Eric Schouest, to the reception.
  
- Museum renovations: The floors have been refinished. Final cost: \$4,500. Still to be completed is the installation of three electrical outlets in the middle of the floor. Cost: materials \$300 plus Kerry's labor cost for installation.
  
- Beer stein exhibit: Stewart explained that he would like to set up on Thursday, with presentation on Sunday afternoon. George made it clear that Stewart would need to handle PR, setup, and cleanup. Stewart said that Anthony Essaied might get a German beer for Oktoberfest. He suggested August 24th for setup with the steins on display August 25 - September 3. His presentation would occur on Sunday, August 27 at 4pm. George suggested posting event info on local brewery Facebook pages. Stewart said he would solicit volunteers for the event.  
**MOTION:** Stewart made the motion to approve his event. Seconded by Felicia. Motion passed.  
  
**ACTION ITEM:** Stewart and Felicia will have a game plan in place by mid-July. George requested a report from them at the May 17th board meeting and again at the August 16th board meeting.

- St. Tammany statue: Stewart did not have an update but would make a presentation at our next board meeting on May 17. Geralyn said she would be interested in knowing more about Saint Tammany, since he was not a Catholic saint that she was familiar with.
- Francis Broussard event update: George said the event was well attended and enjoyed by guests. There were two speakers, Francis and state archaeologist Chip McGimsey. George suggested to Francis that they prepare another series of presentations to be scheduled six months from now. George mentioned that he might ask Chip if he would like to do a presentation on his own.

## **New Business**

- Archive meeting report: Melissa Smith, Certified Archivist, explained that ASTM and TOAS have no established process for accepting donations. She suggested that she meet with the town to explain what is necessary for the protection of items and the legal aspects of concern to the Town and the Museum. She explained the difference between physical buildings and what they preserve: archives handle papers, libraries collect books, and museums collect three dimensional objects. She has created a plan to present to the Mayor that explains how to set up legitimate archives. It would be important to establish a collections development policy and guidelines for moving forward.

**ACTION ITEM:** George will set up a meeting with Melissa and others interested to share thoughts and information about grants, developing an oral history program, and visiting the Archives space in the Annex building.

- En Plein Air reception: Courtney reported that we are ready to go with the bar, food, and setup.
- Meeting with the Mayor: George discussed renovations to the museum closet, Fall Fest, honoring Ron Blicht at the upcoming Volunteer Party on June 2. George encouraged the mayor and his staff to attend the reception as well as future board meetings.
- 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.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** 6:20PM, moved by George, seconded by Felicia. Motion approved.

Next board meeting is scheduled for 5pm on Wednesday, May 17.