

Abita Springs Trailhead Museum (ASTM) Board Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2023 at the Museum

Minutes taken by Courtney Blicht

Members Present: George Long, Courtney Blicht, Martha Gruning, Stewart Eastman, Calissa Folse, Niki Mendow, Emeritus Member Ron Blicht

Absent with notice: Jimmy Nelson, Melissa Smith, Emeritus Member Geralyn Lips

Absent without notice: Felicia Walker

- Meeting called to order at 5:02pm by Board President George Long
- Martha moved that minutes of the January meeting be approved. Calissa seconded the motion, which was approved.
- Financial report by Niki Mendow, Treasurer
Account balance is \$38,373.15 as of February 14, 2023. It is not certain if the Cleco donation for En Plein Air had been deposited yet.

Unfinished Business

- Selection of officers: Niki resigned as Financial Manager. Martha will cover both Financial Manager and Vice-President positions.
- Flooring bids: TOAS has agreed that the floors could be refinished. Mark Ragusa of Nature's Own Wood Floors was the only vendor of the three providing an updated bid but Martha has full confidence in him. Display cabinets cannot be removed from the space during floor refinishing, which is what required the updated bids. Martha will present it to the Mayor for his final approval. Mark expects to finish the job in five days when we are closed and on dates we decide upon.
- Communication with TOAS: George initiated monthly meetings of officers with the Mayor, sharing ideas for future projects, etc. Meetings will be scheduled to follow our monthly board meetings. George created a spreadsheet to identify subjects to be covered in each meeting.
- En Plein Air update: Ron reported 26 artists will participate so far. Lynnette Soules is handling PR. Postcards should be ready soon. George suggested using our printer to create tabloid sized flyers for the event. Niki has the EPA sales folder, which she will give to Ron before the opening reception. Reception details will be discussed at our next board meeting. ACTION ITEM: Courtney would like clarification from TOAS regarding guidelines for purchase of food for the reception.
- Quilt show: George met with four members of the Ozone Layers Quilt Guild. They've decided not to have a reception. There will be demonstrations and a lecture on quilt history in America. March

10-12. Hours: Friday noon-6pm, Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 11am-4pm. ACTION ITEM: Courtney will determine a process for raffling the quilt donated to the museum by former board member Peggy Scimemi. Discussion followed as to who should be invited to the show, with Courtney suggesting that Town officials be personally invited.

- Trees project: The memorial plaque purchased by Carolyn Boudreaux for her son has been placed on its tree outside of the museum. Evette Randolph has not yet replied where she would like her son's memorial plaque to be placed. ACTION ITEM: George will ask at the monthly Mayor's meeting if they would allow a different type of plaque.
- Earth Day participation: George spoke with John Preble, president of Friends of the Park, about their participation in Earth Day festivities. He said they will not be involved. The Bike Festival coordinator, Patrick Brooks, is uncertain to what degree they would be involved in an Earth Day event but are doing their own event. George suggested we bow out of any participation in an Earth Day event.
- Display of beer steins: Stewart suggested that the exhibit would be most effective after mid-August. He will prepare a presentation with introductory information on approximately 30 steins. At the event, he plans to discuss the process for starting a beer stein collection and use the Promethean board. Martha discussed how this exhibit fits in with the history and culture of Abita Springs and how it ties in with our mission. Stewart has researched the ethnic heritage of several residents, even finding a composer of German songs in the process. Martha found an article about German settlers who organized the first congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church. George motioned, Martha seconded, to create an exhibit with the focal point on beer steins to be tied in with Oktoberfest celebrations. Motion passed unanimously.
- Totem advertising: George has sent a notice for renewal of advertising on the totem. He has only received one reply in the affirmative and John Preble said no. He would like to set a date for final consideration of advertisers. The fee for each new or refurbished arrow will cost \$100 plus the \$100/year lease for a three-year term. ACTION ITEM: George will follow up with the remaining advertisers and determine a closing date.

New Business

- Cook book: George brought up ideas for reprinting or a redo of an existing cookbook focusing on Abita Springs. Discussion included whether or not this is a good idea since there is an existing one. Courtney suggested that this may be a difficult project because it is already challenging to find volunteers to do the work of existing events/projects. Calissa likes the idea and offered to edit/review any recipes submitted if we move forward with the project. ACTION ITEM: Courtney will find the existing cookbook, George will discuss with Jimmy to see if he's interested in getting involved.
- Conversations with Warren Privette Sr.: Gail Ledet mentioned to George that Warren visited the museum. George believes he would be a good source for info on the history of several Abita Springs families. Martha suggests that someone should do an interview with him. The consensus

was that it's a good idea but there may not be a volunteer with the energy to follow up on this idea.

Meeting adjourned at 5:58pm, moved by Martha, seconded by Calissa.

Next board meeting is scheduled for 5pm on Wednesday, March 15.

Upcoming events of note: Whole Town Garage Sale on March 25; Francis Broussard/Chip McGimsey on March 26; Busker Festival on April 2; En Plein Air on April 21-23