

# **Abita Springs Trailhead Museum (ASTM) Board Meeting Minutes**

## **March 15, 2023 at the Museum**

Minutes taken by Courtney Blicht, Secretary

Members Present: George Long, Courtney Blicht, Martha Gruning, Stewart Eastman, Melissa Smith, Felicia Walker, Niki Mendow, Calissa Folse, Ron Blicht

Absent with notice: Geralyn Lips

- Meeting called to order at 5:01pm by George Long, President
  
- Felicia moved that minutes of the February 2023 meeting be approved. Martha seconded the motion, which was approved.

- Financial report by Martha, Treasurer

Account balance is \$38,762.84 as of March 15, 2023.

The Cleco sponsorship check has still not been deposited into the Museum account. **ACTION ITEM:** George will contact Stacy Ludlow for more information.

Martha mentioned a credit of \$2547.53 was transferred to the Museum account. Money came from the LAMP interest account.

### **Unfinished Business**

- Flooring bids: Mark Ragusa's final bid is \$4500, which covers the inconvenience of working around the displays, which will be kept in the museum during the work. George mentioned that the closet needs rearranging in order to make room for the Promethean board, three new display cabinets, and podium. He spoke to Janet Dufrene about this and she requested a sample drawing of what work is needed. She also asked for discussion by the Board on how to pay for carpentry expenses in the closet when the expenditure was not included in our annual budget.
  
- En Plein Air: Ron provided an update. 27 artists are participating. Claude Ellender and Mary Monk have agreed to set up and hang the exhibit. Ron asked for volunteers to help with sales on Saturday and Sunday during the show.
  
- Beer steins: Stewart did not have an update on his plans for a display of his steins. He said he would check with the Brew Pub to consider the possibility of a cooperative event. George suggested including some aspects of German heritage to add depth to the event. Stewart said that would not be his area of expertise. George suggested contact with the Lutheran Church about German settlers in Abita Springs and that the minister, Patrick Freese, might be a good resource. Ron suggested incorporating the origins of Abita Beer into the event. Courtney suggested that Stewart ask board members for planning assistance. Felicia offered to help him. **ACTION ITEM:** Stewart will organize a separate planning meeting to discuss details of an event.

- Tree project: The Mayor has approved the purchase of memorial plaques for trees that have already been purchased and planted. The question remains as to the future designation of trees as memorials since plaques can no longer be placed.

## **New Business**

- Quilt show: The show was a big success. Many attendees commented on the quality of the exhibit. The Ozone Layers Quilt Guild may consider holding a similar exhibit annually. The beautiful quilt donated by former board member Peggy Scimemi was raffled and we received \$820, which will support future programming.

- En Plein Air reception: Courtney provided information on it and requested volunteers for setup, serving, breakdown, and supplying food. Calissa offered to help with food setup at 5pm. Martha and Lisa Alt will provide table decor. Stewart agreed to get ice for the bar. **ACTION ITEM:** Melissa will contact Dorignac's to request donations of white wine and/or beer.

- Need for new board members: At our March meeting with the Mayor, George explained our need for new members or determine if the Board may have a different structure once George, Courtney, and possibly Martha will not be serving on the Board in 2024.

Jimmy Nelson has resigned.

Stewart asked what events we host. George clarified that we host speakers, such as the series with Francis Broussard, art exhibits such as the one for Elise Roome, the Quilt Show, and En Plein Air. Archiving also fulfills our mission. **ACTION ITEM:** George, Melissa, Mary Davis, Martha, and Rachel Harmeyer will meet to discuss archiving priorities and a path forward on March 16 at 10am.

- St. Tammany statue: Stewart asked to discuss his vision for funding a St. Tammany statue in the Parish. He would like to see various Abita organizations come together to support the endeavor financially. He clarified that, when he refers to Saint Tammany, he is speaking of the Patron Saint of America. Stewart suggests it could be a bronze statue at a cost of approximately \$70,000. Stewart says he's just beginning this endeavor, working alone, and has not yet received commitments from the groups. **ACTION ITEM:** Stewart will provide an update.

Meeting adjourned at 6:08pm, moved by Courtney, seconded by Martha.

Next board meeting is scheduled for 5pm on Wednesday, April 19.

*Upcoming events of note:*

April 21-23: En Plein Air