The Old State Capitol Board Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2017 - 2 p.m.

State Archives Building

Members present: Liz Harris, Marianne Freeman, Pamela Love, Frank Ransburg, Betsie Magee, Nancy Broadhurst, Lacey Toledano, Tony Clayton

Secretary of State Tom Schedler, Undersecretary Joe Salter, OSC Director - Suzette Crocker, and Museum Division Director - Mary Durusau.

The meeting was called to order by Tom Schedler.

Secretary Schedler gave an overview of the current museum budget of $2.93 million. The Old State Capitol and Shreveport museum account for $2.5 million of that amount. The governor’s preliminary budget proposal for FY17-18 includes $3.3 million in funding for museums. Secretary Schedler said this projected scenario is the best he has seen in recent years.

In response to repeated budget cuts, Secretary Schedler has been working to transfer smaller museums to local control including the Military Museum in Ruston and the Spring Street Museum and Water Works Museums in Shreveport. There is still discussion about consolidating the museums under the Lieutenant Governor’s Office. Schedler said he believes the Old State Capitol should remain under his purview because of the museum’s focus on government and the electoral process.

Schedler and the board members discussed potential fundraising including: activities and events focused on civility/manners for children, showing old speeches of past political figures and bringing in a theater group for an interactive experience. Tony Clayton suggested hosting a Root Beer Summit targeting young people to discuss current social issues. There was also discussion surrounding the Spirits event and incorporating a Clue game for added entertainment.

There was a motion by Liz Harris to appoint Nancy Broadhurst as Chairwoman, Peggy Vidrine as Vice-Chairwoman and Pam Love as Secretary /Treasurer. Tony Clayton seconded the motion which was approved.

Lauren Davis, OSC Curator, discussed the reaccreditation process and explained the board’s role. Deadline for OSC to submit its application is March 2018. The board decided to review the code of ethics and will vote on it at the next meeting. Liz Harris will work with the OSC staff on the Mission Statement. The board agreed to sign the Pledge of Excellence, another document recommended for board members and staff.

Suzette Crocker announced 2017 upcoming exhibits. The Power of Children exhibit was discussed, and plans to engage Ruby Bridges to speak. Tony Clayton offered to reach out to Judge Brian Jackson to assist us. The annual Spirits of Louisiana fundraiser, which is set for Oct. 26, also was discussed.

Future meeting dates were set for April 24, July 31 and Oct. 30.

Board member Frank Ransburg complimented Secretary Schedler on the excellent work done by SOS staff during the election. He presented Schedler with a book, Unprecedented, signed by board members.

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.