LOUISIANA STATE EXHIBIT MUSEUM

                                      REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

Meeting October 8, 2020

**12:00 noon - Governing Board Members**

Nell Shehee called the meeting to order and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Cindy Grogan called roll. Present were Jeff Girard, Ann Mills, Peter Ramsey, Nell Shehee, Nancy Walker, Catherine Newsome, Thomas Carmody and SOS Kyle Ardoin was introduced. Several members of the Friends Board were in attendance. SOS Ardoin stated he appreciated meeting with members of both boards to address all museum issues and build an understanding and trusting relationship. It will take efforts from all boards, members and staff working together and moving forward.

There have been some misconceptions about SOS Ardoin’s intentions. His position is to come together to enhance the museum, move things forward and he cannot just take the Friends money. He wants the Cooperative Endeavor agreement between the Friends and the state in place and a Strategic Plan for LSEM developed in collaboration with the Friends. SOS said he would answer questions and that he is always available to talk.

Nell Shehee asked for a motion to approve the Gov. Board Minutes from the July 30th meeting. Jeff Girard made a motion, seconded by Peter Ramsey. Motion carries.

A copy of By-Laws to reflect the new statutes had been passed out and emailed at the last meeting. There was a motion at the last meeting to accept the updated By-laws but there was a 30 days notice required prior to amending them (over 30 days have passed). Motion was made to call for a vote by Thomas Carmody, seconded by Jeff Girard. Voted and motion carries.

Standing Committee Appointment chairs could then be voted on after adoption of the by-laws are passed.

A.  Executive Committee - Nell Shehee - chair, Paul Strickland vice chair and Thomas Carmody.

B.   Accession and Deaccession Committee: Richard LeBlanc - chair, Paul Strickland, Jeff Girard and Chris Brown.

C.   Strategic Plan Committee: Jeff Girard - chair, Thomas Carmody and Peter Ramsey. Needs 3 **Friends** Board Members for their input on long range plans for the museum.

D. Building and Grounds Committee: Nancy Walker - chair, Peter Ramsey,

E.   Education & Exhibits Committee - Rosalind Glover Bryant - chair, Jeff Girard and Ann Mills.

F. Nominating Committee - Ann Mills - chair, Paul Strickland and Richard LeBlanc.

Thomas Carmody made a motion to vote on the Committee Chairs, seconded by Nell Shehee. Voted and motion carries.

Old Business - Resolution to Friends passed 5/27/20 regarding FF&E for Archives Building, The process is for the Governing Board to make a request through formal resolution to the Friends, so there is a record of what is being asked for and why. The resolution is sent to the Friends for their consideration. After discussion and a formal vote by the Friends, the Friends will return their resolution to the Governing Board acknowledging their agreement to collaborate and to what extent. The Friends need to provide a copy of the Governing Board Minutes and Governing Board needs a copy of the Friends Board minutes per the by-laws.

Report from the Friends - Dr. George Bakowski reported the Friends had approved a portion of the request for FF&E to complete the Archives Building. George stated that the $110,000 shelving and storage system, $3,800 for security system, $1,500 for phone system, $12,000 for a scissor lift, $1,500 for appliances and $4,000 for furniture.

Chairwoman Nell Shehee thanked George and the Friends for their support. The museum will be receiving these items as donations to LSEM. Attached is a sheet listing requested items and what Friends will pay for. Sharing information is important and keeping both boards informed. There was some discussion about having a board training session available for both boards.

New Business - SOS Kyle Ardoin was asked about the relationship of a 501 (c) 3 and the Secretary of State’s office. SOS Ardoin stated that there needs to be a symbiotic relationship between the Friends and SOS, in a formal cooperative endeavor. The SOS office is charged by law to protect the assets of the state. The museums and most of their artifacts belong to the state. All proposed expenditures made by the Friends for the benefit LSEM need to be approved by SOS. And changes, repairs, or improvements to LSEM are required to go through Facility Planning. The state pays for most of these and if not, a request is made to the Friends by the Governing Board to determine if they can/will pay for other improvements & repairs. The previous request process was incorrect at LSEM. The Secretary of State was not included in the request process nor was aware of how the Friends expenditures were being handled at LSEM.

Nell Shehee asked what the state pays for at the museum. Kyle answered utilities, building repairs, employees, benefits, roof repairs, roof installation and the landscape and security contracts. There are some funds available in Facility Planning for emergencies.

The state can audit the state offices and museums, these are not always a financial audit, and sometimes they are a performance audit. The state cannot audit the Friends. The Friends need to decide how, if and when they conduct their own financial audit.

Nancy Walker asked about possibly opening the museum on weekends. There was some open discussion about being open on weekends, maybe one Saturday or Sunday a month, the hardship on the staff and lack of volunteers (they cannot work without a civil service employee and security guard present). Our exhibit opening receptions are held on Sunday afternoons, usually about one Sunday every 4 to 6 weeks. We have been open on the weekends during the State Fair.

SOS Ardoin was asked about the Oct. 13th Town Hall Meeting that is the Lt. Governor’s meeting. The meeting describes the proposed plan laid out by Lord Consulting Services to merge all Louisiana museums under one department and have one board controlling them. In general, the plan needs work. There were no more questions.

SOS Museum System Director, Thomas Carmody thanked SOS Ardoin for going to bat for the museum system by absorbing proposed budget cuts into the elections budget instead of the museum budget. This enabled the museums to stay open. Thomas also reported that due to COV-19, the SOS had closed all the museums; the only 2 that reopened were the Old State Capital and LSEM.

Thomas expanded on what will be discussed at the Oct. 13 Town Hall Meeting, he attended one in Baton Rouge earlier this month. There will be a lot of questions regarding where the funding will be coming from and the benefits that it will or will not provide.

There was some discussion regarding LSEM being an early voting site. It would bring people into the museum, it’s a larger and a more convenient site. We will have to work with the Caddo Parish Registrar of Voters and Caddo Parish Commission members to consider utilizing the museum for a future voting site. SOS Ardoin had to leave for another meeting. Everyone thanked him for attending and his time spent with the board members.

Nell Shehee asked for a motion to adjourn. Nancy Walker made a motion, seconded by Ann Mills. Meeting adjourned

**NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021@ 12 NOON**