

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Monday, December 14, 2015
12:30 PM – The Old U.S. Mint
New Orleans, Louisiana**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum was called to order by Chairman Michael M. Davis at 12:30 PM at The Old U.S. Mint in New Orleans. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Jerry F. Adams; Madlyn B. Bagneris; Robert A. Barnett; Myrna B. Bergeron; Charles R. Davis; Michael M. Davis; Rosemary Upshaw Ewing; Jeffrey Pipes Guice; Janet V. Haedicke, Ph.D.; Kevin Kelly; Aleta Leckelt; Lawrence N. Powell, Ph.D.; Anne F. Redd; and William J. Wilton, Jr.

Members Absent: Sharon Turcan Gahagan; Thomas Frère Kramer, M.D.; William J. Perret, M.D.; Donna Winters; Philip Woollam; and Diane K. Zink

LSM Staff Present: Dawn Hammatt; Mark A Tullos, Robert E. Wheat

Also Present: Julia George Moore

Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman M. Davis called the meeting to order. Ms. Ewing MOVED, seconded by Ms. Bagneris, to approve the agenda. There was no public comment. **Unanimously approved.**

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 9, 2015 meeting were distributed in advance. Ms. Ewing MOVED, seconded by Ms. Bagneris, to approve the LSM Board minutes from November 9, 2015. There was no public comment. **Unanimously approved.**

Chairman's Report

Mr. M. Davis said the date for the next Collections Committee will be February 3, 2016. The dates for the next Irby/Finance Committee and LSM Board meetings will be determined in consultation with the new Lt. Governor.

Collections Committee meeting: February 3, 2016, 1:00 PM

Irby/Finance Committee meeting: TBD

LSM Board meeting: TBD

Director's Report

Mr. Tullos presented the December 14, 2015 Director's Report (see attached).

Dr. Powell asked about the status of the Civil Rights Museum. Ms. Bagneris replied that the Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board is actively looking at different models and opportunities, including the identification of possible locations and funding sources, including federal funding sources, for the museum. Mr. Tullos also stated that any definitive progress will be brought to the LSM Board's attention.

Mr. M. Davis asked for an update on mold issues at 1000 Chartres and the 1850 House Museum. Mr. Tullos said the furniture is being moved, and the maintenance department is painting the walls of the 1850 House Museum. At 1000 Chartres, artifact cleaning continues and mold remediation is under control.

New Business

The LSM Bylaws require revision to align with the new legislation. Ms. Moore's red-lined changes were sent to the Board in advance for their review. In addition to the changes submitted to the LSM Board in advance of the meeting, Ms. Moore requested that the LSM Board consider one additional change:

On page 9, Article 4, Section 1(e) should read, "(e) one shall be from a panel of four names submitted by the Wedell-Williams Memorial Foundation or the Wedell-Williams Aviation and Cypress Sawmill Foundation in Patterson."

Ms. Ewing asked whether there was any legal significance associated with the change on page 4, Article 3, Section 3 from "The Board shall advise the DCRT Secretary and the Director..." to "The DCRT Secretary and the Director shall consult with the Board..."

Ms. Moore said there is no substantive difference. The amendment is merely intended to mirror the language in the new legislation. Ms. Ewing MOVED, seconded by Dr. Haedicke, to approve the amendments to the LSM bylaws. **Unanimously approved.**

Irby/Finance Committee Report

Mr. Barnett presented the Irby/Finance Committee Report (see the Committee minutes for a more detailed recap).

a. Commercial bid process Step 3: 507 St. Ann Street

Mr. Barnett advised the Board that the current tenant, *Artistic Heritage*, was the only applicant for the space. He requested when the lease is signed, we have the correct corporate name listed on the lease. The Committee recommended that the current tenant, *Artistic Heritage*, be selected at a new monthly rental rate of \$1,242 effective March 1, 2016. Ms. Ewing moved to accept the committee recommendation and it was **unanimously approved.**

b. Commercial bid process Step 3: 517 St. Ann Street

Two proposals were received: one from Perlis Clothing and one from the current tenant, *Ma Sherie Amour*. The Committee recommended the current tenant, *Ma Sherie Amour*, remain as the tenant at a new monthly rental rate of \$4,653 effective February 1, 2016. Ms. Redd moved to accept the committee recommendation and it was **unanimously approved**

c. Commercial/Residential Tenant Concerns

Mr. Barnett summarized the public comments provided by residential and commercial tenants at the Irby/Finance Committee meeting.

d. Reconsideration of Residential Rent Increases/Rent Study

In accordance with the motion unanimously adopted by the Irby/Finance Committee, Mr. Barnett offered a MOTION to delay the implementation of the residential rent increases adopted at the November 9, 2015 meeting of the LSM Board, pending the outcome of a rent study that will be commissioned specifically for the LSM.

Until completion of the study, the residential tenants' leases will be allowed to re-conduct on a month-to-month basis. When the rent study is complete and the new rates have been voted upon by the Board, the new rates will go into effect in full. They will not be phased in at 50% this year and 50% next year. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

Ms. Ewing asked who will hire the rent study company. Mr. Barnett made a MOTION that the LSM Director, working with Mr. Barnett, Mr. Kelly and Ms. Zink, will establish the Scope of Work and select a qualified appraiser to perform the rent study. Ms. Bagneris seconded the motion, which was **unanimously approved**.

Mr. Barnett stated that he would like to add to a future agenda the issue of Pontalba maintenance, upgrades, and repairs. There was some discussion about LSM policy and practices regarding maintenance, upgrades, and repairs.

Mr. Tullos noted that some tenants who complain about the condition of their apartments have refused upgrades to their apartments. Mr. Tullos stated that there is a monthly pest control service. If problems persist, the LSM staff depends on the tenants to inform Ms. Washington so that additional steps can be taken (e.g., have apartment sprayed again, traps placed, etc.).

Dr. Powell suggested the Board members be allowed to look at some of the apartments. Ms. Moore offered to provide counsel to LSM staff to ensure that the visit would not violate open meetings laws.

Collections Committee Report

The report was sent out in advance for the Board's review.

Ms. Redd commended the LSM staff for going to Baton Rouge and working well with the personnel in the offices where the art is hanging.

Ms. Hammatt gave a short update on the Cusachs' donations and their request to pick up all of their loaned items. The family has been offered three sets of dates in January to retrieve everything and she is waiting to hear back from them.

Ms. Bagneris MOVED to accept the Collections Committee report. **Unanimously approved.**

Friends of the Cabildo Report

Ms. Ruth Burke presented the report for the Friends of the Cabildo.

Friends of the Cabildo walking tours continue to lag compared to the previous year. The FOC and the LSM met last week with Mark Tullos, Robert Wheat and Marvin McGraw to discuss possibilities of getting more placement on the LSM Website. They are hopeful that will produce an increase in tour revenue.

The 1850 House Museum Store continues to see positive results and is on budget for the fiscal year

This past weekend the FOC hosted their second annual symposium at the Cabildo and Old U.S. Mint. Once again, it was a sellout crowd with author Gary Krist serving as the keynote for the event. The FOC is already beginning to work on the event for 2016.

Louisiana Museum Foundation Report

Ms. Maclay gave the report.

Since the last LSM board meeting, the LMF has been focused on the gala and Jeff Hale's trip to New York. The LMF is still counting the money from the gala, but suffice it to say that everyone had a great time and over \$15,000 was raised during the event between the "tipping" and the auction. By the next board meeting, Ms. Maclay will report on how much was raised in total. Over 240 were in attendance and the menus exhibit was a huge success. Special thanks to Sarah-Elizabeth Gundlach for curating the exhibit and to Greg Lambousy and his exhibits team. She also thanked Marvin McGraw and his team for the lovely video showing the Royal Sonesta when it housed the jazz Museum and for announcing the plans for the new jazz Museum. Mark Tullos and Michael M. Davis were great waiters and all of the "waiters" were wonderful sports and we thank them all for making the event so much fun.

Ms. Maclay then reported on Jeff Hale's trip to New York as follows:

Mr. Hale met with and secured Academy Award/Tony/Golden Globe-nominated actress Patricia Clarkson for the campaign committee co-chairmanship. She also gave ideas on how to best engage a number of other top celebrities, including Woody Allen and Scott Bakula.

Mr. Hale met and shared our campaign information with representatives of the top four Tri-State area national jazz organizations: Jazz @ Lincoln Center, National Jazz Museum in Harlem, Louis Armstrong House/Museum, and Jazz Foundation of America. All expressed support.

The NYC-based Hearst Foundation has granted a meeting on January 20th in New York to discuss the campaign. Other meetings sought on the trip included Wynton Marsalis, Jon Batiste and other top campaign prospects.

Campaign materials are nearly all finished, and the LMF is actively engaging campaign committee prospects and potential donors.

E.D. White Historic Site Report

Mr. Stark said the Annual meeting was successful and they had a good turnout of 50 people.

Wedell-Williams Aviation and Cypress Sawmill Museum Report

In Patterson, Ms. McGraw and his marketing team have completed the video and it came out really well.

Capitol Park Museum Report

The Christmas celebration at Capitol Park Museum was a great success with about 500 people coming through the museum. January 14th is the next “Thirsty Thursday” event.

Old Business

Dr. Haedicke asked about the status of the VCC Commission. Ms. Redd asked if we have submitted other names. Mr. M. Davis said he asked Mayor Landrieu for an update and got no response. Mr. Barnett MOVED that Diane Zink and Kevin Kelly’s names be submitted as nominees for Mayor Landrieu to pick to be the LSM’s representative on the VCC. They are both domiciled in Orleans Parish. Dr. Haedicke seconded the motion, which was **unanimously approved**.

Dr. Powell thanked Randy Davis for his service. He said he would like to write a resolution for Mr. R. Davis to be presented at the next Board meeting.

Adjournment at 2:26 PM.