

Minutes

Louisiana State Exhibit Museum
Regional Museum Governing Board
Thursday, October 11th, 2012, 12:00 noon

Members present: President Mrs. Margaret Green, Betty Black, Tari Bradford, Marcia Calhoun, William Cawthorne, Hon. Jean Doerge, Jud. Gayle Hamilton, Hedy Hebert, Betty McDonald, Geoff Perego, Mickey Prestridge, Maxine Sarpy, Nell Shehee, Andy Taylor and Evelyn Valore. LSEM staff present: Wayne Waddell – Director, Nita Cole - Curator and Cindy Grogan – Public Information Officer. There was a quorum present.

12:05 pm Chairperson Green called the meeting to order. Margaret asked the board members to introduce themselves for the benefit of the new members. Margaret asked if everyone had a copy of the roster and to make any changes to Cindy. She asked if everyone received a copy of the agenda; Jud. Gayle Hamilton made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Andy Taylor. Voted and agenda approved. Chairperson Green asked if everyone received a copy of the minutes and if there were any corrections. Correction made – Marcia Calhoun was not at the Ex. Committee meeting. Hon. Jean Doerge made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; seconded by Tari Bradford. Motion carries and minutes approved. Margaret stated that Delton Harrison had fallen, gotten stitches and was on the mend, also Gloria Cook is in the hospital with pneumonia.

Standing Committee Reports:

Executive Committee – No Report.

Accessions and De-accessions Committee – No Report.

Building and Grounds Committee – No Report.

Education Committee – No Report.

Long Range Planning Committee – No Report.

Nominating Committee – No Report.

State Fair Report- Maxine Sarpy reported the dates for this year's State Fair, Oct. 25th through Nov. 11th. The fair is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. They have a new entertainment company that will be providing the carnival rides this year.

Friends of LSEM – Mickey Prestridge invited all the members to come the Friends pre-view party on Thursday, October 18th (Webb family 5-6 pm; 6-7:30 pm for Friends) for the Webb Gallery dedication & Cenac Oyster Exhibit opening. The exhibit and gallery will open to the public on Saturday, October 20th from 12 noon to 4 pm. There will be light refreshments at both receptions.

Nita Cole gave a more detailed description of the Cenac Oyster Exhibit and the book researched & published by Dr. Chris Cenac about his family and the history of the oyster industry in South Louisiana. The exhibit will be here until the end of January.

Old Business: The by-laws are a work in progress – there are some cosmetic changes that have been authorized to be updated.

Legislative Update: No report.

Board Vacancies: No report.

Indian Gallery: Nita Cole gave a brief history of canoe, the families that found the canoe and the other collections that will make up the Native American Galleries. Margaret Green asked Ms. Cole to briefly describe NAGPRA to the members. This is the federal act to protect Native American artifacts. This would allow any recognized tribe to request their ancestors artifacts returned to the tribe or re-patriated (could be a museum nightmare but we are in compliance with the Caddo).

New Business: Committee appointments will be made at the January meeting; if anyone has a strong desire to serve on a particular committee, please contact Mrs. Green. Committee meetings are an “as needed” basis and do not have scheduled meetings.

Chairman’s Report: Margaret Green asked Nita Cole for an exhibit schedule for 2013. The Travis Whitfield exhibit that starts in November will end in late March. The Cenac Oyster Exhibit will be here until the end of January. Animal Artists will follow sometime in late March/April. The month of June will be a joint venture with the Strand and Robinson Theatre on the Dahl family. There will be a student art camp/classes hosted by two art teachers this July. The Shreveport Art Club will exhibit in August which brings us up to Glitz & Grits next year and there is not an exhibit scheduled during that time frame yet.

Ms. Green gave the members an update on Glitz & Grits. The date is Friday, Sept. 27th and the theme is “Let Them Eat Cake”. We will have the traveling Rodrigue piano to be played by Dr. John or Mickey Gilley. Windstorm (band) will also play for your dancing pleasure. 2011 G&G was very successful and Margaret would like to raise \$100k for 2013’s G&G but the economy may hurt. Margaret also stated that all boards and committees are a volunteer status. No one gets a salary, gas allowance or will be reimbursed for any purchase without an approved written requisition first.

Margaret thanked the new members

Director’s Report: Wayne Waddell reported that since the last meeting we’ve had over 2,255 visitors (that have signed in). We’ve held 3 election classes with another class scheduled for the end of the month. Summer has come and gone and both Caddo & Bossier parish schools have started classes again. We have already addressed the art teachers about this year’s 25th Annual Greening of the Museum and had 22 schools sign up.

During the last meeting the Shreveport Art Club Exhibit had just opened in the gallery. That was replaced with an exhibit by the Dr. John Sibley and the Exploration of the Red River Exhibit. Both opening receptions and educational program had about 150 people in attendance. We are preparing for the reopening/dedication of the Webb Native American Galleries and The Celebrated Houma Oyster Exhibit on October 20th from 12-4 pm. The Friends preview party will be on Thursday, October 18th from 5-7:30 pm at the museum.

During the last 2 months, the museum hosted some very well attended events: The Shreveport Art Club and the Dr. John Sibley & the Exploration of the Red River receptions had about 150 visitors at

each. Shreveport Green had a lunch program in the auditorium with a noted garden designer/speaker with over 200 attending. The Black Theatre Fest was here at the end of September for their 3rd annual program that had over 200 children involved. Group Benefits had a retiree program Monday and over 400 came to that. The museum also hosted a series of Shreveport Summer Music Festival jazz concerts on 2 Saturday nights. We also had a couple of Hurricane days at the end of August. Advocare has also booked the museum for it's pre-game I-Bowl party on Friday 12-28-12 and Ayers College has a December 1st graduation scheduled.

The Friends have 422 memberships for 2012 with \$46,347.00 collected in dues. We have 26 memberships collected for 2013 already (mostly Webb gallery donations) that have totaled \$1,425.

Wayne stated that we have been busy maintaining the museum. The sump pumps in the basement were replaced at the cost of \$11,000 which the state paid for. This should keep the area dry and sump pumps going even if the power fails. The state also replaced a backflow preventer on the sprinkler system at the cost of \$4,000. This will enable the museum to pass the fire inspection. There is new signage for the wheelchair ramps & doorways. The CCC program painted the courtyard fountain railings and enclosed some pipes in the rotunda. This program has been a wonderful for the museum. The boilers have been inspected and certified. The boilers used to run continuously and the gas would escape through the ceiling all year round; the bills would be \$4,000 to \$7,000 monthly and now are under \$100.00. The breezeways are almost finished; new door stops are being installed. The breezeway doors will lock behind you when you leave.

We are installing some additional new track lighting in the Indian Gallery. The rotunda lighting is being updated: the LED lighting required is very expensive. The state is willing to cover about \$5,000 of lighting costs which is about one-third of the lighting. Wayne may have a campaign to have individuals sponsor lights like what was done for the case lighting.

Jud. Gayle Hamilton asked what the state budget cuts for the year will be. Wayne explained we are actually working without a budget as of July 1st. The cuts made before July 1st were approximately \$200,000. The staff has already been cut from 15 full time employees down to 6 and hopefully won't be cut again. The state has approached some museum boards to get their Friends to hire and pay employees but the Governing Board has already passed a resolution that LSEM Friends Board shall not do so.

Margaret explained that the new members that have not been sworn in yet will not have voting rights until July. The previous 11 members on the board will be voting members (6 members will be a quorum). Margaret stated that most business will be held off until then.

Margaret thanked Mickey Prestridge for serving as the Friends President and ex-officio Governing Board member for 2012.

Jud. Gayle Hamilton made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Evelyn Valore.

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 pm

Next meeting date will be Thursday, January 10, 2013 @ 12:00 noon.