April 20, 2023 Louisiana State Exhibit Museum

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

**LSEM has had over 3,947 visitors since January 1, 2023**

Nell Shehee called the meeting to order. It was determined a quorum (6 members) was present.

Cindy Grogan took the roll call. Present were Catherine Newsome, Nancy Walker, Paul Strickland, Thomas Carmody, Jeff Girard, Peter Ramsey and Nell Shehee. Proxy to Paul Strickland from Ann Reid Mills, Proxy to Nita Cole from Chris Brown. Guest was Alex Levy - State Internal Auditor.

Nell asked if there were any changes or corrections to the December Meeting Minutes. There were none. Nancy Walker made a motion to accept minutes as written; Paul Strickland seconded the motion. Motion carries and the Gov. Board Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2022 were approved.

 Standing Committee Reports -

A.  Executive Committee report: Nell Shehee stated the Executive Committee had not met.

B.   Accession and Deaccession Committee report: Richard LeBlanc was absent - no report.

C.   Strategic Plan Committee report: Jeff Girard stated that they have not met, that the Friends Board needs to appoint 2 more members from their Board. The next step is to do the actual plan.

D. Building and Grounds Committee report: Peter Ramsey stated that the Asian jasmine around the crepe myrtles and flagpole is dead and needs to be pulled/replanted. Cindy Grogan mentioned that the planter boxes alongside the front steps leak into the two front offices and has ruined the carpet.

There was some open discussion regarding the voids and damaged pipes under the building, the sinkhole alongside the building and the scope of work that will have to be done to repair it. The voids have been repaired with a foam product by Gorilla Polylift. The state still holds some construction funds ($36,000) that it has not paid to the contractor since the building still has problems that have not been corrected.

E.   Education & Exhibits Committee - in Thomas Carmody’s report.

F. Nominating Committee - N/A - no vacancies.

Old Business: Elise Grenier’s restoration of the map cost - $4,890 was added to the budget for 2023. Elise’s schedule is full and these funds will need to be paid when she is available. She said she may have a break in mid-May.

New Business: SOS Kyle Ardoin is not seeking re-election. There was some discussion regarding having a museum foundation, but the legislature would determine that.

SOS Museum System Director’s Report:

**Past Events**

* Thursday, January 19, 2023 “***Changing Landscapes: Along the Solomon Northup Trail”*** exhibit opening reception was held. We had 130 visitors. It was a popular exhibit.
* Tuesday, January 24, 2023 we had a performance of ***A Visit with Pawpaw Texada*** and there was a second performance on Thursday, February 2nd.
* Sunday, March 5, 2023 from 2-4 pm Creative Art Connection Juried Exhibit opening was held. It was a beautiful day and we only had about 50 attending.
* Saturday, March 25, 2023 was National History Day. There were over 100 students attending and 38 are advancing to the state competition.
* Sunday, April 2, 2023 from 2-4 pm Dave Ivey’s & Albino Hinojosa Exhibit - “***Down South - Water & Oil Do Mix”*** opening reception was well attended with 185 attending.

**Upcoming Museum Events**

* Sunday, April 23, 2023 Red River Crossroads will have their annual meeting here. (Private event).
* Thursday, May 4, 2023 from 4:30 - 7:00 pm the ***Andres Sanchez-Flores: Gems of an Artistic Genius*** Exhibit will have its opening reception. The exhibit will run through April 28, 2023

The museum staff wish to express our condolences to our friend Valerie Hoogland on her family’s loss. A big thank you to Ian and wife Ellen for stepping in for National History Day and the ***Down South; Oil & Water Do Mix*** Opening Reception.

Catherine Newsome stated that we can borrow an exhibit from the Archives at no cost and they would deliver it.

Thomas Carmody reported on museum repairs & improvements that have been completed and planned.

1. Lights for the front fence are being replicated from the lights on the back fence line. Costs $5,240 and will be installed when finished.
2. A washer and dryer have been purchased for the museum staff.
3. A deep freezer has been purchased for archival and artifact use.

With nothing further to report, Nell asked for a motion to adjourn. Nancy Walker made a motion; seconded by Peter Ramsey. Meeting adjourned.