

TIOGA HERITAGE PARK & MUSEUM
Board of Directors

Meeting of October 27, 2014

The Tioga Historical Park & Museum's board was held Monday, October 27, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Karen Doyle	Jimmie Lewis	Betty Longino
John DuFour	Melvyn Bowie	Ruth Bowie
Sandra Bracknell	Donna Taylor	Melba Smith
Melba LaCroix	Jeannette Downs	Carolyn Hataway
Tom Schedler	Mary Durusau	Kyle Ardoin
Stormy Hambrice	Albertia Roshto	Jan Chandler
Sonny Chandler	Jim Netherlin	Bonnie Lemoine
Todd Faraar	Don Whiddon	Jonathan Dean
Robin Hooter	Bubba Moreau	Theresa Moreau
Adam Rabalais	Tammie Arnold	Jackie Heath
Jim Heath	Lavergne Turpin	Nat Ussery
Johnnie Marie Gorum	Charles Smoot	Wayne Ryan

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Jimmie Lewis. Minutes from the last board meeting were tabled. Secretary of State Tom Schedler wants to address us for a project near and dear to our heart. He will be discussing the structural analysis completed by Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson.

Mr. Schedler introduced his first assistant Kyle Ardoin, Mary Durusau, our museum director and his secretary Stormy. He reported that we were getting ready to replace the roof which has been in progress for some time. In the course of that, Facility Planning decided to have a structural analysis done to see if the building would support the new roof. They discovered the building was out of square 6" in places and was unsafe to occupy. Now we are dealing with Facility Planning and Risk Management. Quickly we had to move to take out the liability and shut the facility down.

The real issue is what can we do. We have been calling Risk Management and Facility Planning to see what should be our next steps.

They are going to have it looked at from some other firm. \$130,000 is a lot to just prepare the plans. We have to improvise how we operate in the near future. Now we have Risk Management and Facility Planning involved. The bottom line is that a hard wind could collapse the roof. If something did happen, the state is liable. We have a public document that the building is unstable and we can't take the risk.

Mary Durusau reported she had a conference call with the engineering firm to come out with a building contractor and give us a ball park price what it would take to stabilize the building. It might result in cutting into the floor and wall to look at the piers and joists. The building is 5-6" out of plumb. We had 2 incidences of strong winds in December 2012 which could have been a safety issue to the building. Maybe the contractor could give us a better idea what it would cost to restore or stabilize the building without bringing all the electrical up to code.

Jimmie Lewis asked the question when it was taken over by the state, who was responsible for repairs. The state is liable for all repairs. Donations can be made to the Friends Group and the state can accept donations through them.

The issue now at hand is that the engineering firm feels the building in its present state cannot support the new roof. We've either got to accept their study or call in another group for a second opinion. We need to see what we need to do in order to stabilize the building so it will support the roof.

In writing, this building is not safe for occupancy. In reality it's 99-1/2% o.k. We're waiting to hear back from facility planning or Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson to get a price on shoring up the foundations and walls. Our intent is to try to save the building and not tear it down.

Our biggest concern is how long will it take. Quite frankly, we have seen a lot of aggressive work by facility planning. We have to find out what we have to do, how much it will cost, then contact our legislature delegates to help find money. Once we get to that point, we need to get our legislators involved to find money. It could be a year to get all this done.

Mary Durusau has contacted the State Office of Historic Preservation and still hasn't heard from them. Tom said there is no movement to tear the building down. Mary will follow up with the Historic Preservation.

In the short term, what do we do to accommodate the local community? We have to close the door. We have more engineering work to do to get a firm assessment. The \$130,000 the engineering firm charges will result in a set of construction documents just to stabilize the building. We will need the legislature to find this money plus at a minimum \$400,000 to \$500,000 to do the work. We will have to do one step at a time to see what it cost. The time line could be 6 months to a year. We're trying not to give false illusions.

Kyle Ardoin spoke. He's trying to keep everyone up to date and in the loop. He can give periodic updates. The key is funding through the legislature process.

Jimmie Lewis thanked the state officials, the governing board and the friends group for coming out. We know there are problems with the building. It's historic and a state building. We know we have to play by the rules in Baton Rouge.

Jeannette wanted to know the status of cleaning up and painting the train. Mary said there was \$25,000 - \$30,000 put back to paint the train. When the estimate was done, the firm wanted \$150,000 to sandblast and paint the train. One reason for the high cost is building a building around the train while it is sandblasted. Also the lead paint is a problem. The rest of the capital outlay was going to be used to enhance the exhibits.

You can't just steam clean the train. The lead paint sends the cost way over the top. Jimmie Nelle talked about writing some grants.

Jeannette Downs thanked Mr. Schedler for coming to address our group. Mr. Schedler or his staff will be coming back and giving us updates as they travel North in Louisiana.

There being no other business, motion to adjourn was made by Jimmie Lewis, seconded by John DuFour. Motion carried.

Carolyn Hataway

CH/ml