

**TIOGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
EXECUTIVE BOARD & HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING**

**Meeting of August 18, 2016**

The Tioga Historical Park & Museum monthly Board meeting and Tioga Historical Society meeting was held at the Tioga Museum on Thursday, August 18, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Members present were:

Jimmie Nelle Lewis	Carolyn Fletcher	Dennis Bordelon
Michael Wynn	Reginald Ingram	John DuFour
Bruce Kelly	Carolyn Hataway	Melba LaCroix
Carol Stepp	Priscilla Bartlett	Mary Durusau
Pat Bordelon	Bubba Moreau	Melvyn Bowie
Jeannette Downs		

Jimmie Lewis called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The minutes of July 21, 2016 were read. There being no corrections, Michael Wynn made a motion to accept, seconded by Reginald Ingram. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Jeannette Downs. The general fund began with \$6,266.29 and we had one deposit of \$27.00 and expenditures of \$744.78 leaving a balance of \$5,548.51 as of August 18, 2016. Most of these expenses were replacing boards on the handicap ramp. The Memorial Plaza account began with \$2,087.75 with one deposit of \$50.00 leaving a balance of \$2,137.75. The Barbershop account began with \$6,984.93 with one expenditure of \$84.00 on 5/19/16 leaving a balance of \$6,900.93. Pookie Ingram made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Michael Wynn. Motion carried.

A new account has been established at the Red River Bank for restoration of the museum. We had our first donation of \$5,000 from Richard Smith, who is a 1957 graduate of Tioga High School.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mary Durusau, from the Secretary of State's office, was excited about the prospect of a tax millage. She talked with the Elections Division and brought us a package with information. It has to be approved by the Secretary of State. Lang is the chief election officer for the state. Unless it's a state wide election, the cost is about \$1,200 per precinct for anything on the ballot. If the school board has an item on the ballot, then you could split the costs.

Bubba Moreau introduced Bruce Kelly of the Rapides Parish Policy Jury. Mr. Kelly said the \$1,200 could be taken out of the millage if the tax passes. If it fails, then we would have to pay it. If it's a state wide election, the state bears the cost. It's too late for the November election. Spring is when the local elections are held. Mr. Kelly said we need an area or district. After much discussion a motion was made by Michael Wynn, seconded by Pookie Ingram to use Ward 10, District A. Mr. Kelly will run the numbers for Ward 10, District A and figure on what mileage it would be for a 1 mil tax and see what the millage would be for \$500,000. After the museum is repaired, we will still need maintenance. He will give Jimmie Nelle the information.

Mary said the news from Baton Rouge is dismal. They were asked to set aside 5% of the budget. Now the state will have to pay 30% of the recovery expenses for everything that has to be done because of the flooding. She completed the grant to Union Pacific Railroad asking for \$250,000 based on structural emergencies along railroad property. It has made it to the second round. We won't know until February. Our museum highlights the timber and railroad industry.

Pookie Ingram says to do a Go Fund Me account. Social media is the way to raise money. Need to get on Facebook every day and post something. Tioga High School Alumni and History of Grant Parish is a good site to post. October is Homecoming and Mrs. Smith's 99<sup>th</sup> birthday is being highlighted.

Jimmie Nelle introduced Carol Stepp who is a member of the Woodmen's Lodge. Karen Roy is the Coordinator of Louisiana and the Red Basket organization. 100% of the donations received go to the project. You have to have a 501-3C designation and have the project validated. The website is RedBasket.org. It goes through PayPal and PayPal has to be linked to your bank. A PayPal account will need to be setup. You do the application on line, post the project and collect the money. Pookie Ingram made a motion, seconded by Carolyn Ingram, to have Jeannette Downs, Treasurer, set up the Red Basket application and account. Carol Stepp will call headquarters and watch for the Red Basket to come through. Mary mentioned we may need tough construction documents that could cost between \$50,000-\$60,000.

An update on the Red Barn was given by Pookie Ingram. The tin would cost about \$1,000.

Pat Bordelon said they could help with a website but the best solution is to use social media – Facebook. It would cost between \$400-\$600 for a website. Once created, it will always be there.

Leasing the museum was discussed. The only instance where the state leased was the stadium at LSU.

Mike Wynne and Jimmie Lewis visited Roy O Martin. They had good and bad news. All the money for this year has already been spent. They are about to complete building a facility worth tens of millions of dollars. Money has already maxed out. They are willing to host a fundraising event for us and invite businesses. that may provide additional funding.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Jimmie Nelle contacted Procter & Gamble. They will start new grants in September. She talked with Tammy Jones. Jimmie Nelle was invited to a Rapides Parish Planning Commission meeting concerning museums, preserving history and things that need to be sustained. They were interested. Other museums and businesses became aware of our needs. Awareness continues to be an issue.

North Rapides Economic Development has a meeting on Monday at 11:30. Billy Nungesser will be there.

There being no other business, motion to adjourn was made by Carolyn Fletcher. Seconded by Carolyn Hataway. Motion carried.

Carolyn Hataway

CH/ml