

Minutes
Louisiana State Exhibit Museum
Regional Museum Governing Board
Thursday, August 16, 2012, 12:00 noon

Members present: President Mrs. Margaret Green, Betty Black, Clay Brock, Marcia Calhoun, Ben Coleman, Chris Giordano, Debbie Grand, Jud. Gayle Hamilton, Delton Harrison, Ken Hickman, Betty McDonald, Mickey Prestridge 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. Cindy Grogan called roll and there were no guests. Margaret asked if everyone received a copy of the agenda; Delton Harrison made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ben Coleman. Voted and agenda approved. Chairperson Green asked if everyone received a copy of the minutes and if there were any corrections. Ben Coleman made a motion to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Clay Brock. Motion carries and minutes approved.

Standing Committee Reports:

Executive Committee – Margaret Green reported that the committee did meet (Marcia Calhoun & Ken Hickman attended). There was discussion regarding the progress of the front garden and the future of the side gardens, Glitz & Grits 2013 plans and a report on the progress of the Friends regarding the recommendation of an audit and part-time bookkeeper. There were no major changes or recommendations discussed just routine business.

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- Chris Giordano reported that this is 106th fair that will run from Oct. 25th to Nov. 11th. Ag luncheon and cotton auction will still be here in a scaled down version. The helicopter committed to be on the grounds but the blacksmiths requested being moved to the midway – a higher traffic area and more visual spot. There will be new carnival operators coming in with new equipment and a lot more resources at this year's fair.

There will also be some football games: LA Tech and Texas A&M will play on Aug. 30th and the Port City Classical (Grambling & Alcorn) will play on Sept. 1st.

Friends of LSEM – Mickey Prestridge stated that the Clarence Webb Gallery will have a preview party for the Friends on Thursday, October 18th from 5-7:30 pm and the public opening will be Saturday, October 20th from 12-4 pm in conjunction with the Cenac Oyster Exhibit opening. The Shreveport Art Club had their opening last Sunday which was very well attended and will be on

display until Sept. 6th. Wayne Waddell asked for feedback regarding having Friends preview parties on Thursday evening. There was some discussion regarding the subject

Old Business: Wayne Waddell stated the front garden is not finished yet, there will be more plants added at a later date. Then a driver lost control of his car and went through the gate, over the garden knocking down trees, plants and spewing car fluids on the plants. The driver did not have insurance. The state covered the gate & sprinkler repairs but not the plants. The maintenance on the gardens is very time consuming for the landscape crew; something easier and more formal that looks manicured will be better suited for the front of the museum. LA Tech did the garden design for the front garden. Delton Harrison asked if any group or nursery would donate their services for the garden. Betty Black asked if the prisoner program we have used in the past would be available to upkeep the garden. There was some discussion regarding the garden.

Legislative Update: No report.

Board Vacancies: Margaret Green stated that the Governing Board is made up of 10 members recommended by the Secretary of State (2 year terms) and 10 members recommended by the Friends Board (4 year terms). The recommended list had been sent in to the SOS's office but did not make it to the legislature for approval. We are awaiting a confirmation of the list that SOS recommendations. Members will attend meetings but cannot vote until legislative approval (in July) – only previously approved members can vote which means a quorum is now 5 or 5 votes. There were 2 emeritus positions requested to be made for Betty McDonald and Ben Coleman. There was some confusion and open discussion regarding voting positions and term lengths. Ken Hickman suggested that there may have to be some by-law amendments.

Indian Gallery: Nita Cole stated Don Alexander is painting a mural behind the canoe that wraps around the case. When finished, it will resemble the area where the canoe was found. Wayne has taken the large Green Corn Ceremony mural to build a frame so it can be reinstalled in the gallery. We are in the process of receiving the McKinney collection of Indian artifacts. Mr. McKinney worked with Dr. Webb and has some wonderful pieces including a large engraved bowl (inside & out) and a bois d'arc bow dated from the same time as the canoe. It will be a loan. Over \$31,600 has been raised for the Webb Gallery and very little of the \$40,000 budgeted from the Friends will have to be used.

NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection & Recovery Act) the Caddo requested a memo of understanding between the museum and the Caddo. Ken Hickman spent a lot of time reading the agreement – didn't quite agree with the contract language, but in the end, Wayne signed the agreement and it has been returned to the Caddo. The NAGPRA agreement allows artifacts that were excavated from burial grounds or used for religious purposes to be reclaimed by the tribe. This was done before the time and expense of renovating the gallery and building a case for the canoe started. There was some open discussion regarding the NAGPRA agreement.

New Business: See Below.

Chairman's Report: Margaret Green has agreed to chair the 2013 Glitz & Grits event again. The museum will be celebrating its 75th anniversary and a "Let Them Eat Cake" theme was determined.

George Rodrigue has decorated a Steinway piano that will tour the country with “superstars” playing and signing the piano. At the year end, it will be auctioned off as a fundraiser to help LSU raise 6 million dollars for the music department and their own Steinway pianos. The piano will be here at the museum for G&G. It was suggested to have Van Cliburn play “Happy Birthday” to the museum on the piano at G&G and sign it. Delton Harrison said he will contact Van Cliburn. Maybe have George Rodrigue design another poster for the event. The date will be determined after the LSU football schedule is decided.

Director’s Report: Wayne Waddell stated since the last meeting there has been 9,460 visitors through the museum for a total 16,386 visitors since January. During the summer, the museum hosted some very well attended events: The Goddess of Beauty Pageant – 240+, Ayers Business College graduation – 350+, State Fair Rodeo & Stock Manager (National) dinner – 170+; Statewide Fireman’s (spousal) luncheon – 121+, Junior League Provisional – 80+ and the Dramatiks Workshop 2-day event which approximately 750+ students came to. and Clerk of Court election classes (3).

Louisiana Society of Animal Artists (which sponsors the Student Animal artists) had a summer exhibit. Back by popular demand was the Remember in Shreveport-Bossier When Exhibit- that was up for 6 weeks. Like last year, this exhibit was very popular and had 5,000 (4,958 visitors that signed in). The Shreveport Art Club had an opening reception last weekend that was very well attended.

The museum has received a donation of a Clyde Connell titled “Swamp Song.” A special case will be designed on the breezeway since Ms. Connell loved nature and the outdoors. The state purchased several benches (\$3,700) that have been placed near the Rotary Garden and on the portico. The state also purchased a new curtain (approximately \$6,000+) for the auditorium and decorative rails (\$2,000) for the stage steps. We are also working on the LED lighting in the cases and around the rotunda wall. There will be several new canister lights in the gallery. The Friends paid \$7,000 for the mural that is behind the canoe case. The basement is still having issues with the sump pumps; they seem to be drawing water through the concrete. This is a pricey repair that may cost \$10,000.

The museum will host a series of Shreveport Summer Music Festival jazz concerts on the next 3 Saturday nights. Travis Whitfield will have an exhibit that will open in November and the Cenac Oyster Exhibit and Webb Gallery dedication will take place in October. The Sibley bicentennial exhibit will be open in September with dates to be finalized soon. So there is a lot going on at the museum.

Clay Brock made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Betty Black.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm

Next meeting date will be Thursday, October 11, 2012 @ 12:00 noon.