**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**

**LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Monday, March 10, 2014**

**12:30 pm – The Old U.S. Mint**

**New Orleans, Louisiana**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum was called to order by Chairman Michael M. Davis at 12:30 p.m. at The Old U.S. Mint in New Orleans. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Jerry F. Adams; Robert A. Barnett; Michael M. Davis; Charles R. Davis; Rosemary Upshaw Ewing; Jeffrey Pipes Guice; Thomas Frère Kramer, M.D.; Aleta Leckelt; William J. Perret, M.D.; Lawrence N. Powell, Ph.D.; Anne F. Redd; William J. Wilton, Jr.; Donna Winters; and Philip Woollam

Members Absent: Madlyn B. Bagneris; Myrna B. Bergeron; Allen J. “AJ” Gibbs; Janet V. Haedicke, Ph.D.; E. Ralph Lupin, M.D.; H. Wayne McCullen; and Diane K. Zink

Also Present: Robert Freeland, President, Friends of the Cabildo

Susan H. Maclay, Executive Director, Louisiana Museum Foundation

Mark A. Tullos, Jr., Director, Louisiana State Museum

Robert E. Wheat, Deputy Director, Louisiana State Museum

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the February 10, 2014 LSM Board meeting were sent to the Board in advance of the meeting. Mr. Woollam MOVED, seconded by Dr. Perret, to approve the minutes. **Unanimously approved.**

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman M. Davis welcomed new LSM Board member William Wilton. The Oath of Office was administered by Mr. Barnett. Mr. M. Davis said he may join any or all Committees as he chooses. Mr. Wilton stated he is from Baton Rouge, and attended LSU. He is Director of Special Events at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Mr. Wilton represents the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Foundation.

Mr. M. Davis read a resolution for ex-LSM Board member Bill Curl as follows:

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Curl served with distinction and dedication as a member of the Louisiana State Museum Board from 2011 through 2013; and

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Curl gave unsparingly of his time, energy, knowledge, and leadership in the development and creation of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum in Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Curl helped shepherd the partnership between the Louisiana Sports Writers Association and the Louisiana State Museum in the establishment of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum; and

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Curl will continue as an active supporter of the Louisiana State Museum and the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Members of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum, meeting in regular session this 10th day of March 2014, in New Orleans, Louisiana, express their individual and collective gratitude and respect for William “Bill” Curl; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this action shall be entered into the permanent records of

the Louisiana State Museum and that this resolution shall serve as evidence that the Board of Directors, Administration, Staff, and stakeholders of the Louisiana State Museum hereby

express their sincere appreciation to William “Bill” Curl.

Ms. Ewing MOVED, seconded by Mr. Wilton, to approve the resolution. **Unanimously approved.**

Mr. M. Davis advised that he and Mr. Tullos visited Dr. Lupin in the hospital. He is not doing well. He said he hopes to have an update at the next meeting.

**Director's Report**

Mr. Tullos gave a PowerPoint presentation of the state of the LSM and what he hopes can be achieved in the near future. An exhibit titled *The Faces* *of Natchitoches* is opening on March 15th about the everyday people of Natchitoches. Also, the staff is working on an exhibit for the Capitol Park Museum entitled *Revolution* to open in September about the Battle of New Orleans.

LSM received confirmation to get the loan of the portrait of Andrew Jackson from the Smithsonian. We are awaiting word on the loan of Andrew Jackson’s jacket. The Tricentennial of New Orleans is planned for 2018 and LSM is still hoping the music exhibition at the Mint will open in 2016.

Mr. Tullos said the education department is developing well and he listed some of the initiatives as follows:

* Development of a 5-year education plan for the entire LSM system
* Development of partnerships with State Parks
* Creation of explorer guides for children and family groups
* Ongoing growth of the adult lecture series system wide
* Creation of monthly educational meetings for the docents of the 1850 House

Mr. Tullos and Ms. Maclay recently visited with the Interim Director of LEH (Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities) to re-establish a working relationship.

Mr. Tullos said the collections projects are coming along well and some of these projects include:

* Digitization of colonial documents
* Continuation of the FOC oral history digitization project
* Comprehensive inventory of collections – four year plan
* Battle of New Orleans artifact selection, script writing, conservation and loans
* Music exhibit content development and conservation

Mr. Tullos then gave an overview of the many upcoming Capital Projects that Mr. Wheat is working on, such as:

* Lower Pontalba and Madame John’s roofing
* Electrical upgrades at the Mint
* HVAC upgrades at the 1850 House
* Technology upgrades for the Capitol Park Museum exhibits
* Patterson museum initiatives including re-design of the Cypress Sawmill exhibits and potential merger of the two foundations

**Wedell Williams & Cypress Sawmill Foundations**

Mr. Adams said they are trying to bolster the Sawmill side of the museum. The Friends group is ready but they need a design plan.

**Friends of E.D. White Historic Site**

Ms. Leckelt said the encampment went well. The Boy Scouts joined in as well.

**Friends of the Cabildo Report**

Robert Freeland handed out the latest newsletter.

Volunteer Hours: 466 (valued at $9,007.78 @ $19.33 Dept. of Labor rate). Membership: 1,089 active members. Walking Tours for 295 persons brought in $4,304, an 18% increase over 2013.

The Donald Harrison concert was postponed until February 20th, which resulted in less than expected profits of about $1,000.

The Education Committee has almost finalized the Adult history program with the help of Karen Leathem and Joyce Miller. The target date is set for May 28th.

The FOC’s Oral History program will be restarted with the help of Greg Lambousy, who involved both the FOC and Loyola's Latin American Studies department.

The FOC and Mr. Tullos met with the Mexican Consul and Cultural Attaché as part of their joint Hispanic Community Strategic Plan. The meeting served to explore possible joint events.

FOC is glad to be part of the LSM planning committee, and has a specific project to support the restoration of the Renato Beluche bust presently held in the US Mint storage.

Upcoming events include *Hidden Treasures: Spring Arts Edition* on April 1st and 3rd. Curator of Decorative Arts Katie Burlison will present on items such as silver, ceramics, glass and metals which represent the coming of Spring.

**Louisiana Museum Foundation Report**

Ms. Maclay gave the report.

Regarding the colonial documents campaign, the February 21st event was well attended with over 150 people present. In addition to the revenue raised from the end of year mailing, an additional $900 was raised that evening, making for a total of approximately $22,000 raised as a result of the 2013 campaign. Much of this will go toward the match for the NEH grant.

The LMF is starting their spring membership campaign with letters and reminders going out in early April. The Lafayette trip is being postponed. Ms. Maclay said Mardi Gras was an issue in getting attendance.

The LMF’s annual meeting is still planned for May 20th, as this was the best date for the majority of the attendees.

The date for the LMF’s 2015 gala around the Battle of New Orleans will take place on Friday evening, January 9th. They are still waiting to hear if the jacket loan will come through from the Smithsonian.

Ms. Maclay arranged an appointment for Mr. Tullos and I to visit with Peter Mayer Advertising for Mr. Tullos to see if any of Peter Mayer’s advertisers would be interested in taking sponsorship/ownership of the exhibit. Ms. Maclay is in the process of setting up a similar appointment with Gambel Communications and possibly one other firm.

After learning more about it and assessing the situation, the LMF has come to the conclusion that they lack adequate staff to be able to participate without assistance from the Museum, so Ms. Maclay will be following with Mr. Tullos to determine if the Museum wishes to assist them with proceeding.

Year-to-date, the LMF has provided $410,654 in program support expenditures for the Museum. They have administered 24 contracts for the Museum totaling $341,531 in expenditures for Museum projects. Additionally, the LMF has administered 29 CEAs for the Program Partnering Program this year to date. That program has raised $12,835 so far.

Fivegrants totaling $8,950 were received since July 1. Two grants totaling $55,000 have been submitted and are pending, one grant and fourletters of Inquiry totaling $50,000 are in progress and onegrant for $210,086 for educational programming for the Hurricane exhibit was denied. A grants report has been distributed.

**Accessions Committee Report**

Dr. Perret pointed out that both the Accessions Committee report and an Accessions Committee memo were distributed to the Board in advance. Wayne Phillips spoke about the conservation of the jacket and Jessica Hack's impeccable work and said she is the only local conservator qualified for such a detailed job. The jacket is posted on the LSM website and some small donations have come in.

Ms. Ewing MOVED, seconded by Ms. Leckelt, to approve both the Accessions Committee report and memo. **Unanimously approved.**

**Irby/Finance Committee Report**

Dr. Powell brought four items before the Board.

The Committee awarded the commercial lease to 809 Decatur to Fluevog Shoes, only to learn the company decided the space was too small. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the space be given to the existing tenant, Mr. Ali Hassan who plans to convert it into an NFL sports shop. The name of shop will be Touchdown. His rent will be $3,500 per month (not including the $144 common area fee) and his lease term will be two years, with 2, two-year options for a total of six year. Ms. Leckelt seconded the motion, which was **unanimously approved.**

DCRT repaid a surplus on the Sports Hall of Fame building back to the Museum, but the funds were put into the Irby account. However, there is currently a shortage of money for supplies in the state budget. Therefore, the Irby Committee recommends up to $100,000 in Irby be freed up to use to purchase supplies for State side of the Museum. Seconded by Ms. Winters, the motion was **unanimously approved.**

An overdue advertising bill in the amount of $2,300 was discovered that needs to be paid for LSM brochures. The Irby Committee recommends paying the bill out of the currently frozen marketing funds. Seconded by Dr. Perret, the motion was **unanimously approved.**

Mr. Alan Fisher needs to resume paying rent, so the Irby Committee recommends he start paying his monthly rent again on April 1st. Seconded by Ms. Winters, the motion was **unanimously approved.**

**New Business**

The next LSM board meeting will be Monday, April 14th, and the Irby/Finance Committee meeting will be on the same day.

A large Jack Daniels’ sponsored concert will take place on April 4th at The Mint. It should bring in about 500 people.

Meeting adjourned.