Old State Capitol Advisory Board meeting

2 p.m. Monday, April 24

Louisiana State Archives

Members present: Nancy Broadhurst, Paul Arrigo, Peggy Vidrine, Marianne Freeman, Leslie Hurst, Liz Harris, Courtney Dampf and Secretary of State Tom Schedler

Nancy Broadhurst called the meeting to order, and members joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from the last meeting were distributed. Leslie Hurst moved for approval of the minutes. Marianne Freeman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Secretary Schedler welcome everyone and thanked them again for their service to the Old State Capitol.

Curator Lauren Davis gave a brief overview of the reaccreditation process which the Old State Capitol is going through. There are five core documents that are required in the accreditation process including a code of ethics which was sent to members for review.

Liz Harris requested that the minutes reflect that her husband, architect Kevin Harris, does volunteer work for the Old State Capitol. In addition, he is being paid a stipend from a Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities grant that was made to the Old State Capitol Foundation. The Advisory Board does not have any authority over the Foundation or how its funds are spent. Liz said she just wanted the record to be very clear.

The Ethics Code was signed by each member present and will be given to others to sign at the next meeting.

Lauren explained that the collections policy sets forth how the museum will collect artifacts and how they will be treated. This is very important for people who are considering making donations to the Old State Capitol. Donors need to be assured that the items they donate won’t be sold or given away to some other entity without a very clearly defined process. Secretary Schedler gave an example of a family who donated memorabilia to the state museum system only to find that it was in storage and not displayed in the manner they expected. The family is now trying to retrieve the items. Members were asked to review the collections policy which will be discussed and signed at the July meeting.

The Old State Capitol mission statement has been reviewed by a committee, and Liz Harris submitted the following: Louisiana’s Old State Capitol educated the public on Louisiana’s history and democratic processes through exhibitions, education, outreach and the arts. The museum is dedicated to inspiring engage citizenship, advancing our collection and preserving the National Historic Landmark building. After a thorough discussion, members agreed on:

Louisiana’s Old State Capitol educates the public on Louisiana’s rich history and the democratic process through exhibitions, programming and the arts. The museum is dedicated to inspiring engaged citizenship, advancing the collection and preserving this National Historic Landmark. The board will vote on this in July.

Secretary Schedler expressed his interest in a speaker’s series focusing on some of the state’s former congressional leaders such as John Breaux and Bob Livingston to talk about how differently Congress operates now. Another suggestion was to have a Huey Long impersonator do a performance or partner with LPB on a program with former governors

As part of the reaccreditation process, the strategic plan for the Old State Capitol needs to be revised. This will probably be done at the summer meeting.

Suzette Crocker reported on the restoration of windows being done by the Office of Facility Planning. The project will take more than a year. She also noted the large number of tour groups, riverboats and new high end bus tour visiting.

The group discussed some general fundraising ideas.

Liz Harris moved for adjournment, and Marianne Freeman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

The board’s next meeting will be July 31.