

MINUTES

Shreveport Water Works Museum Governing Board
Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Members Present: Nettie Brown, Gary Fox, Marilyn Joiner, David Kunz, Conway Link, Jeff Little, James Mohr, Liz Swaine, Dale Ward, Paul Williams, Jim Van Hook

Members Absent: George Bakowski, Stacy Brown, Russell Pedro, Cathy Williamson

Secretary of State Representative: Wayne Waddell

The meeting was called to order by Dale Ward.

- I. Minutes from Feb. 10: Little moved that the board dispense with the reading of the minutes. Second by Mohr. Motion passed.
- II. Future Meeting: Plans were made for a tentative meeting following the legislative session, if needed. That date is July 6 at 5 p.m. at the museum. If a tentative called meeting is not needed, the regular meeting date will be August 10 at 5 p.m. at the museum.
- III. Review of Current Operational Issues: Wayne Waddell reported that the interim cooperative agreement for continued operation of the museum for the period April 27- June 20, had been signed and approved by the State. Rather than the \$7560 requested from the board for operations, the number agreed to was \$3449. Waddell noted that this was in large part due to the efforts of Dale Ward.

Further, instead of the three days of operations, Waddell contended that the days should be translated into hours, assuring that we could be open part-time four days a week, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. This will affect hours of the two employees of the museum, Gerald, the senior employee, and Kevin.

Waddell reminded the group that the legislature is "notorious" for not doing anything until the last two weeks and indicated that the board should have a good idea as to whether funding will be maintained by early July. If funding is not restored to museums, the board will again have to determine how/whether the museum will be open. Mohr asked what amount might be expected for a cooperative agreement for the coming fiscal year in that event. Ward indicated it would be approximately \$32,000, based on previous budget. [Ward distributed budget information and visitor data.] Waddell noted that many museums have looked to local funding sources to assist them and to help assure their future.

Swaine reported that she had made some contacts with the City of Shreveport as the new mayor had toured and expressed an interest in this museum. She spoke with Shelly Ragle who is over Parks and Public Assembly about the possibility of the city taking over responsibility for funding since it was once a city property. Ragle indicated that she did not want any new

buildings but that, in light of the mayor's interest, she would review it. Ragle later reported that while the mayor understood the need, there were no funds available.

While large scale operational funding from the city does not appear to be promising, Swaine does believe there is a possibility of getting city crews to handle grounds maintenance periodically. All felt this was a good idea. Waddell did caution that if dollars are not needed for a purpose, they will likely disappear from the state budget.

Much discussion was held regarding the possibility of public funding, even the possibility of a millage. Waddell indicated he had asked Rep. Seabaugh to consider adding local museum funding to his bill in support of the airport authority, Independence Bowl and sports commission, telling him it could expand his support for that. Seabaugh did not respond positively. Waddell reported from his past experience that legislators pay far more attention to the emails coming into their cell phones and suggested that members and supporters mount a campaign to request restoration of museum funding. He provided a list of email addresses and said that communications should go to all, not just our local delegation.

Without a source of sustainable funding, the museum's future is in jeopardy. While some funding could be found for operations, the larger expenses including insurance and liability coverage by the state are important. Waddell indicated that volunteers could not open the museum on days when employees are not there. The state does not allow this.

The group also discussed the issue of a dual museum system. Waddell indicated that the group will want to pay special attention to candidates for lieutenant governor, which has the larger system and is over tourism.

IV. Repairs: Ward reported that the money is in hand for the painting contract. Waddell confirmed that the state will provide \$7,000 for the paint. The board felt that the paint should be purchased now to be available when painting weather occurred.

V. Visitors: Ward reported that totals were down through first quarter, not surprising since the museum is not open as many days.

VI. Other: Van Hook suggested that the board determine if a cooperative agreement with local museums could be arranged for fundraising, promotion, operations and economies of scale. He offered to draft up an idea for discussion.

Waddell asked if any members if the board had any member retiring or being replaced as that requires senate confirmation. Ward indicated he would check and report back to Waddell.

VII. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by James Mohr. Second by Ward.

Respectfully submitted:

Marilyn Joiner for Liz Swaine, Secretary

ADDENDUM to MINUTES

April 30, 2015

The Governing Board met in a called special meeting via teleconference to discuss how to respond to the information just received from the Secretary of State's department that a contingent layoff notice will be issued in a few days to reduce staff effective July 1 under the assumption that the Legislature may not renew museum funding. The SWWM's two part-time employees, Gerald Forrest and Kevin Haines, would be reduced to only one person working one day per week in this event. After considering the merits of each employee, the Governing Board adopted the following resolution made by Jeff Little and seconded by Liz Swaine and directed board chairman Dale Ward to convey same to Secretary Schedler:

The Governing Board recommends that if staff is reduced to only one employee at SWWM that Kevin Haines be the employee retained.

Voting For:

Dale Ward
Jeff Little
Liz Swaine
Paul Williams
Stacy Brown
Marilyn Joiner
George Bakowski
Conway Link
James Van Hook
David Kunz

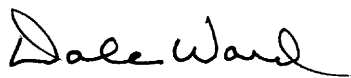
Voting Against:

None

Not Voting:

Russell Pedro
Cathy Williamson
James Mohr
Nettie Brown
Gary Fox

By: _____



Chairman of Governing Board