

The governing board of the Spring Street Historical Museum met on Friday, April 12, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the museum with Gary Joiner presiding. Members present were Pamela Bollinger, Judy Chidlow, Beth Ersoff, Marsha Gill, Susan Hardtner, Conway Link, Charlotte Walter, Pearla Despot and Libby Siskron, representing the Friends of the Spring Street Museum. A special guest was Mary Durusau from the Secretary of State's office.

After a correction to the January 11<sup>th</sup> minutes, Charlotte moved they be accepted. Susan seconded the motion and it was passed.

Charlotte reported on the status of grant applications. We have \$50,000.00 from the Shreveport Dames, \$10,000.00 from the Friends and \$5,000.00 from the Noel Foundation. We have submitted a \$5,000.00 request to the Rotary Club. If we do not get it, Noel will add \$5,000.00 to its grant. There is a pending application to the DAR for \$10,000.00. The National Trust grants, discussed at an earlier date, are not available for construction work.

Judy reported that Tablescapes earned \$6,859.68 for the museum. The Friends lecture series is scheduled for spring of 2014. Their annual meeting is set for Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at Ristorante Guiseppe. Also, they plan an opening event for the permanent exhibit. She stressed the importance of board members joining the Friends.

Gary introduced Mary to the group. Lance Harris has gone to the Hilliard Museum in Lafayette. Mary is his replacement and is working to complete our permanent exhibit, which she hopes will be ready by the fall. She reported the Secretary of State's office took a \$12,000,000.00 cut in the last budget. The full effect will not be felt in 2013 because \$11,000,000.00 came from election funds which will not be needed this year. \$200,000.00 - \$300,000.00 was cut from museums. This creates an urgent need for local partnerships. It should be kept in mind that the Secretary of State's office is not mandated to support museums.

As for repairs to the Spring Street building, Mary is trying to shift funds from her office to "Facility Planning." This must be approved by the Secretary of State.

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Monica Pels is no longer with the museum. She had 70% of our cataloging done and estimated it will need 1,000 hours to complete. Charlotte said the Dames have a little money which might be used to pay Monica to complete the job.

Liz Swaine was able to get three new 2-hour parking meters in front of our building. Thank you, Liz.

Marty Loschen, Museum Director, reported the leak in the basement has been located and Thomas & Parker Waterproofing has made a bid of \$2,109.00 to repair it by Negative Side Waterproofing. The estimate will be sent to Baton Rouge. Jessica Cleaver, with the State Department of Transportation, knows a great deal about restoration and could be consulted on this problem. Susan suggested that we approach the National Center for Preservation Technology & Training for advice. Its headquarters are on the Northwestern campus in Natchitoches.

Marty stated we are on track to match last year's attendance. We have had 1000 visitors so far this year. He has a new brochure in the works with a grant from the Tourist Bureau and the Secretary of State's office is working on a revamped website.

The large red display case downstairs has been donated to the Railroad Museum and should be gone by May 1st. If not, it can be painted to match the walls and used in upcoming exhibits.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Pearla Despot  
Recording Secretary