2023 LSEM Governing & Friends Board Joint

Annual Meeting on Dec. 7, 2023

**5:00 pm - Governing Board Members**

Nell Shehee called the joint meeting to order. It was determined a quorum (6 members) was present.

Cindy Grogan took roll call. Present were: Chris Brown, Jeff Girard, Anne Reid Mills, Paul Strickland, Nell Shehee and Thomas Carmody. Proxies from Nancy Walker and Catherine Newsome.

Nell asked if there were corrections to the Meeting Minutes from the September 21st & 26th meetings. She asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Thomas Carmody made the motion, seconded by Paul Strickland. The Gov. Board Meeting Minutes of September 21 & 26, 2023 were approved.

Executive Committee report: Nell Shehee stated the committee had not met, but thanked the members for serving.

The Accession and Deaccession Committee has not met. No report.

Strategic Plan Committee: Jeff Girard said the committee met 9-26-23 with several Friends Board members and clarifications on the process of proposing exhibits was explained in detail.

Building and Grounds Committee report: No report.

Education & Exhibits Committee: No Report

Nominating Committee: Paul Strickland is leaving the board. He introduced his nomination to take his place, Mr. Frank Bright.

Old Business - Accreditation process is still ongoing. Nita Cole explained that it is a two year process and we are slowly moving along.

New Business - The 2024 Exhibit & Education Budget was provided in September. Thomas Carmody made a motion to accept the resolution, seconded by Paul Strickland. The Governing made a resolution to seek approval of the budget from the Friends.

Friends President, Dr. Cole Evensky, stated that emails of the Friends 2023 January and May meeting minutes have been sent to the museum (received after the 12/7/23 meeting). The email also included the slate of officers, the new board members and returning board members. He said that he will not be President next year, but will still serve as a board member (per their new by-laws).

The Friends had voted on the budget request and it was accepted, however they will consider approval of opening exhibit reception refreshments on a month to month basis.

Chairman, Nell Shehee thanked all the board members for their service. She also stated that the September 26th meeting regarding clarification of the process of proposals to the Governing Board and Secretary of State was productive.

SOS Museum System Director, Thomas Carmody, noted thatLSEM has had over 29,449 visitors since January 1, 2023. The 2023 Louisiana State Fair is under new management and was much smaller than previous years.

**2023 Events**

In 2023 the museum had 10 different exhibits each with an opening reception (two double receptions). The Friends supplied refreshments for all 10 events. There were 11 other private or community events. The staff had to supplement purchases for 4 events.

The museum staff provided 4 educational programs that had over 1,633+ visitors attending.

The Friends were paid $789 in art sales commissions in 2023 as per the CEA. In contrast, in 2022 they received $4,200 in commissions. Don Edwards, Jim Huckaby and Talbot Hopkins were the lion’s share of this amount.

18,991 visitors walked through the doors and 10,440 visitors came for a scheduled event or tour.

Over the years, the Friends have requested consideration of opening the museum on weekends. Mr. Carmody noted that the museum was open for a total of 20 weekend or night events (after-hours events). Per the CEA, it is the Friends responsibility to promote and market the museum, as well as invite their members to museum functions and to provide volunteers.

Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, was the 34th Annual Greening of the Museum with over 600+ students attending. The trees will be on display during the holiday season.

**Old Business:**

The sinkhole by the Archives building is still an ongoing issue being handled by Facility Planning.

A big thank you to Valerie Adger Hoogland for generously supplying the refreshments for the museum events this past year. We also want to thank the Friends paid who paid $2,053 for refreshments over 2023.

**Building Repairs:**

The state has paid for the following building repairs and maintenance:

* Rotunda and auditorium speakers have been installed and sound wonderful.
* The lanterns that were replicated from the lanterns on the back gates have been installed on the Greenwood Road gates.
* A new side by side cart was purchased by the state to assist the maintenance crew.
* The antique Libby Glass press that was donated to the museum has been installed on its new concrete pad. Mr. Carmody thanked the Friends for their donation of the installation. The signage for the piece will be installed shortly.

**New Business:**

* A second capital outlay request has been submitted to repair or replace the damaged limestone panels on the building's exterior.
* Another capital outlay request is for a restoration project for the metal fencing on Greenwood Road and Pershing Drive.
* In 2024 Facility Planning will undertake the replacement of the Water and sewer lines to the museum. Consideration for the need of landscaping after the replacement of water and sewer lines and relocation of underground electrical service stubbed out in front of the LSEM entrance for the electrical sign.
* The 2024-2028 Governing Board members serve with the Secretary of State’s 4 year term. The current board members who wish to serve a second term and nominees will need to complete the Senate questionnaire. Thomas Carmody will notarize it and return to the new Secretary of State, Nancy Landry, former State Rep. and First Assistant to Kyle Ardoin, SOS.

Again, Thanks to all the Governing Board members who have served on the board the past few years and a special thanks to Nell Shehee who has served as the Board Chairman.

A motion made to adjourn the meeting, by Jeff Girard, seconded by Paul Strickland. Meeting adjourned.

FRIENDS BOARD

Friends President, Dr. Cole Evensky, introduced the new 2024 Board President Ian Summers. New members include Jody Dosher who will serve as the Vice President, Monica Mickle as Treasurer, David Wells, Jeremy Johnson and Jay Slater. The secretary position is still vacant.

Mark Rowe was absent and no financial report was given.

He thanked the board members that are rolling off: Ted Roberts, Kay Camp, Dr. Rachael Peters, Valerie Hoogland and longtime treasurer, Mark Rowe. Cole will remain on the board (per their by-law changes).

Ian Summers was introduced and stated he has had a long history of working with the museum. He looks forward to the next year and working with the board members and staff.

Meeting adjourned.