

## **Minutes**

Louisiana State Exhibit Museum  
Regional Museum Governing Board  
Thursday, April 12, 2012, 12:00 noon

Members present: President Mrs. Margaret Green, Betty Black, Clay Brock, Marcia Calhoun, Ben Coleman, Chris Giordano, Delton Harrison, Ken Hickman, Geoff Perego, Betty McDonald and Friends President Mickey Prestridge. LSEM staff present: Wayne Waddell – Director, Nita Cole - Curator and Cindy Grogan – Public Information Officer. Guest was Mary Durusau, Director of Museums with SOS.

12:05 pm Chairperson Green called the meeting to order. Margaret introduced Mary Durusau, Interim Director of Museums. Margaret started with an inspirational quote. Cindy Grogan called roll. Margaret asked if everyone received a copy of the agenda; Marcia Calhoun made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ken Hickman. Voted and agenda approved. Chairperson Green asked if everyone received a copy of the minutes and if there were any corrections. Clay Brock made a motion to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Ben Coleman. Motion carries and minutes approved.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

**Executive Committee** – Margaret Green reported that the Executive Committee met right before the board meeting. Many issues pertinent to the museum were discussed. These items will be discussed as they come up on the agenda.

**Accessions and De-accessions Committee – No Report.**

**Building and Grounds Committee – No Report.**

**Education Committee – No Report.**

**Long Range Planning Committee – No Report.**

**Nominating Committee – No Report.**

**State Fair Report-** Chris Giordano reported that planning for the State Fair is well in progress. The fair will run from Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> to Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> this year. There will be some tie-ins with the Louisiana's bi-centennial. Chris has added a lot of no trespassing signs which gives the police the right to arrest anyone milling on and cutting across the property. Shreveport Green has its spring clean-up; the volunteers will be cleaning the area on the parking lots and rest rooms.

The fair will host some exciting sporting events this spring and summer.

**Friends of LSEM** – Mickey Prestridge said the Friends have met and discussed the resolution regarding to have plans and procedures for handling funds in place. After that, plans are to hire a part-time bookkeeper; maybe 4 hours weekly.

**Old Business:** Margaret passed around a copy of the Rotary Garden plan that the LA Tech Landscape Architect program designed for the museum. The Native Garden had come to look so unkempt most of the year. A request for a more formal, less maintenance required garden would be more in keeping with what the staff and landscape crew could maintain; especially if the state cuts back on the landscape contract.

There are some minor changes that the landscape board will make, but due to the weather (heat) the garden needs to be planted very soon. Margaret stated that if anyone had any questions, to please contact Kitty Estopinal, Landscape Board President.

**Legislative Update: No report.**

**Board Vacancies:** Margaret Green asked Mary Durusau about the board vacancies (Governing Board is 7 members short). Mary stated that they are ready to present for legislative approval, probably will be in place by July.

**Indian Gallery:** Margaret Green mentioned to the board that the Indian canoe is back in the gallery although the protective covering is not in place yet. The cabinetry from the Franks (thanks to Wayne) has been installed by the gents from CCC program. They are doing a beautiful job.

**New Business:** Margaret stated that JoAnne Woodard, from the Friends Board, suggested a pre-party for Friends members only. This will be held Friday night, June 15<sup>th</sup> before the Saturday opening of Remember in Shreveport-Bossier When exhibit.

Margaret mentioned having an Ivanka Trump jewelry sales (fundraiser) party. The top purchasers or team leaders would be invited to a New York lunch with Ivanka.

Mary Durusau assured the board that all the museum requests were submitted to capital outlay bill but none of them made it. The Governor decides what can go in the bill; items that are in the bill are holdover items that were drug forward from last year's capital outlay funding projects. Mary told the board that they are welcome to call her with any questions or problems and she gave her cell phone number – 225-252-0225.

Mary also explained about the Governor's budget cuts. The Governor has his budget & budget cuts based on the retirement bills passing and using those funds for this budget. The museum division is the only division of the SOS offices that is not federally mandated; therefore it will be the area where the cuts are. There was some open discussion here regarding layoffs, cuts and civil service.

There was much discussion regarding Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and the state auditing system. The fees that the Friends Board receives are nowhere near what the Friends Board pays for at the museum. Rental fees were discussed and the cost to rent different museums, the cost to run the museum on an hourly basis were discussed.

**Chairman's Report: No report.**

**Director's Report:** Wayne reported 6,994 visitors have come through the museum since our last meeting. National History Day (in conjunction with the New Orleans WWII Museum) was held here and last year, all 6 winners from the Shreveport area, went on to the state and national competition. The Shreveport Garden Study Club had a packed house for their program in the beginning of March. Alzheimer's Association had a public forum in the auditorium and will have another in April. The Dept. of Transportation also had 350+ people for mandatory program for their workers. Even though there is school testing and Spring break, we have had a good amount of students visiting and the staff has staged the Aunt Tilde skit at least once a week for the last several months (with full auditoriums). We worked in cooperation with Shreveport Green for their "If Trees Could Talk" production that had hundreds of students at each play and the Kendra Chitman/Rising Star Production student play. The RISBW committee and LSEM staff members had a float in the Highland Mardi Gras parade with Charlie Bob the alligator and Aunt Tilde throwing cups & beads to the children. LSEM hosted a Meet & Greet for SOS Tom Schedler at the end of February that was followed by a statewide SOS museum workshop the next day. The LA. Society of Animal Artists - Student Art Awards had all the artists and families here; the exhibit looks wonderful. The student art will be on display in the gallery for the next few weeks and then we'll switch to the La. Society of Animal Artists exhibit in the gallery at the end of the month. It was too soggy for the Broadmoor Methodist Day Care's Easter Egg hunt in the courtyard last week, but they came, toured and visited anyway.

Wayne thanked the Secretary of State's office for their one-time money that we have been able to finish some projects. The breezeways have been 95% completed (funds came from capital outlay) and the lighting is being upgraded. The CCC crew added the walls in the WW Gallery to install the cabinets. The state is paying for a new curtain in the auditorium costing approximately \$5,700, more security cameras have been installed and new speakers in the rotunda have been installed.

Mary Durusau had to leave to attend another meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm

Next meeting date will be Thursday, July 12, 2012 @ 12:00 noon.