

**Minutes**  
Louisiana State Exhibit Museum  
Regional Museum Governing Board  
Thursday, January 12, 2012, 12:00 noon

Members present: President Mrs. Margaret Green, Betty Black, Ben Coleman, Marcia Calhoun, Evelyn Valore, Mickey Prestridge, Ken Hickman, Marilyn Prothro, Geoff Perego, Chris Giordano, Delton Harrison, Betty McDonald, LSEM Staff: Rodney Clements, Assistant to Director, Cindy Grogan, Public Info Officer and Nita Cole, Curator.

12:05 pm Chairperson Green called the meeting to order. Margaret mentioned that Wayne was out of town and will not attend. Also Mary Durusau with Secretary of State's office was going to attend, but was called to Mansfield museum. She then introduced Mickey Prestridge, President of the Friends Board, who will be the representative from the Friends Board for the year. Cindy Grogan called roll. Margaret asked if everyone received a copy of the agenda; Delton Harrison made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Evelyn Valore. Voted and agenda approved. Chairperson Green asked if everyone received a copy of the minutes and if there were any corrections. Geoff Perego and made a motion to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Ken Hickman. Motion carries and minutes approved.

Margaret stated that she had a few comments before the committee reports. She mentioned that an up-to-date copy of the Governing Board members (roster) was passed to everyone. Former Representative and longtime board member Jimmy Long resigned. The Governing Board is 5 members short. 10 members have been nominated by the Friends and the new members will be appointed by the Secretary of State and need approval from the legislature - this should be summertime. There was also a Committees/Members List passed around; Margaret asked that the committees remain the same for now since the board is short on members. A bio request form (requested by the Secretary of State's office) is available for anyone who did not send one in as yet.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Executive Committee** - Margaret Green reported that they have not met since the last meeting.

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

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

**Education Committee - No Report.**

**Long Range Planning Committee - No Report.** Ken Hickman mentioned that if anyone wanted to sit on the committee, they are welcome to.

**Nominating Committee - No Report.**

**State Fair Report-** Chris Giordano stated no report except that they survived the I Bowl. Due to the rainy weather, many events had to be moved inside (especially the ones at the museum reception).

**Friends of LSEM – No report.**

**Old Business:** Margaret Green gave an update on the Landscape and Grounds. The Landscape Board has gotten the Landscape Architecture Program at LA Tech to design a plan for the Rotary Garden. The Landscape Board members are excited about having Tech redesign the garden for them. The professor and some students have already been through and taken measurements. The final result should be a more formal garden in front. Betty Black stated how wonderful the all the potted containers looked when she came in today and for Glitz & Grits.

**Legislative Update: No report.**

**New Business:** Margaret passed around a copy of the cooperative agreement between the Friends and Secretary of State. A meeting is scheduled later this month with Baton Rouge regarding agreement. Ken Hickman stated that the agreement does not reflect what the board does and something better needs to be drafted. This has been requested by the state auditors and all museums had signed one. The chairman of the Old State Capital board stated he had never seen the agreement.

Margaret stated that the role of the boards is to fight the battles for the staff so they can do their job unimpeded. There was also mention of how the funds from museum rentals should be handled. Betty Black brought up the incident with the Huey Long documents and there was some open discussion. Margaret Green explained what happened with the Long documents. Since then, the loan documents specify that items/donations be donated to the Friends organization and not the state so items donated to this museum can stay in this museum.

**Glitz & Grits –** Margaret Green stated that funds are still coming in for G&G and probably will for some time since we have books & posters for sale. So far G&G has made \$141,220 but that includes monies due to George Rodrigue for books, posters and prints that have been sold. Mr. Rodrigue has picked up his exhibit but he donated a LSU print and a Blue Dogs on the Red River silkscreen to the museum. Rodrigue told Wayne that if he sold the LSU cow by the end of the year he would donate \$20,000 to the museum; but that didn't happen. There was a G&G wrap up meeting – suggesting that the new chairperson for G&G be picked and start by the summer of 2012. The museum also had an engraved granite bench made in Margaret Green's honor which was placed in the courtyard. Everyone was happy with the diversity of the crowd; there were a lot of younger people that had a great time and said they would be back.

**Chairman's Report:** Most of the report was given already. We are working to get the appropriations back into the bills (for the archives building).

Resolution adopted by the Regional Governing Board of the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum, January 12, 2012

**RESOLVED** That the Regional Governing Board of the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum recommends that The Friends of the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum proceed with the following: establish a set of financial guidelines with regard to monies received by The Friends and the duties of the Treasurer; secure the services of a bookkeeper; conduct an audit of The Friends financial records.

The above Resolution was the result of a motion from the floor by Delton Harrison, seconded by Marcia Calhoun, and passed unanimously by Governing Board members present.

**Director's Report:** Rodney Clements stated that the breezeways are a work in progress and they are coming along nicely; should be done by the end of February. Nita Cole briefed us regarding the Indian Gallery progress. There was a meeting with the designer this week and the gallery is on track – hoping for a March completion. There is a separate donation fund for the Webb Gallery and the Webb family has donated funds for the canoe cradle and case. The Gallery will be named after Clarence Webb.

Rodney gave an overview for 2011. In October, SOS Tom Schedler was voted in for another 4 years. The museum had 77,000+ visitors for the year (and that is with being closed on weekends). We received the wonderful Bour-Davis (car) donation and after his exhibit, Tom Pressly painted and donated a large mural of cypress trees on Cross Lake. Patrick Sewell had a well attended exhibit and both artists sold many pieces of their work. The Remember in Shreveport When was a very successful exhibit with over 8,000 visitors coming through. This exhibit was so successful that we are going to repeat it in 2012 incorporating Bossier City more. Glitz & Grits was a huge success – as a well attended event, exhibit and fundraiser. We've had the Joint Legislative Committee forum that was filled to capacity and Ayers Business College had 2 graduation ceremonies (over filled), the Advocare Independence Bowl pre-party, the statewide Police Jury Spousal luncheon & fashion show was here with several hundred visitors bused in from all over the state. These events showcased what the museum and auditorium has to offer to the public.

Some of the building projects that have been started: the breezeways are a work in progress and should be completed by the end of next month. CCC work program has been wonderful to the museum – they have painted the fences, power washed the wooden fences, worked in the gardens, stripped and buffed the floors and the carpentry program is going to help with the shelving in the gallery and in the boiler room (for storage). The fresco had some minor repairs this summer.

Nita mentioned that since the breezeways and gallery are being redone, there will not be an exhibit at the first of the year. The first exhibit will be at the end of March with the Student Animal Artist Awards and exhibit, followed by some of the local artists like the Shreveport Art Club (91<sup>st</sup> anniversary) and Louisiana Society of Animal Artists, Remember in Shreveport-Bossier When will be the summer exhibit. Nita is in negotiations with Migon Faget for an exhibit in the fall. This is on exhibit in Baton Rouge and could be our blockbuster for the fall. LED lighting will be placed in the center cases (8 cases) and the state is paying for it. This should eliminate all the reflections in the case. Margaret asked about the next exhibit that will here during G&G 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm

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