

TIOGA HERITAGE PARK & MUSEUM
Board of Directors

Meeting of March 19, 2015

The quarterly board meeting of the Tioga Museum met on March 19, 2015 at the Museum with the following members present:

Jimmie Lewis	Pat Bordelon	Wayne Ryan
John DuFour	Carolyn Hataway	Sandra Bracknell
Melba LaCroix	Jeannette Downs	Bonnie Lemoine
Mary Durusau		

Mrs. Lewis stated we needed to appoint several new board members. Several are unable to attend. New names will need to be sent to Secretary of State Schedler's office so they can be confirmed by the Senate which convenes on April 13, 2015.

Mrs. Karen Doyle has resigned because of her work schedule and has sent in a letter of resignation. Two on the board are inactive. At least 6 or 7 need to be approved by the Senate.

Mrs. Durusau detailed the following:

- 1) Big budget cuts by the governor.
- 2) Secretary of State's office cut by about \$4 million.
- 3) Mid-year cut – about \$1 million.
- 4) Deep cuts made in museum funding and voter outreach program.

Both the museums and voter programs are funded by general fund appropriations. The voter outreach program was eliminated.

Museums – The two largest -The Old State Capitol and Shreveport Museum will be open only 3 days a week. All full time employees will be laid off. Part timers will now work with no benefits. The smaller museums will be open only one day a week.

Mr. Schedler is willing to accept offers from the Friends Group, Parish or City entities for funding. If a museum decides to remain open, it must pay expenses and expenses up until June must be paid now.

Reasons for low state income:

- 1) Low oil prices
- 2) In past years some taxes were eliminated such as the Stelly tax.

Museum costs:

- 1) Old state capitol – \$1.5M as it is today.
- 2) Actual cost for museum for fiscal 2014 is \$43,077
- 3) For fiscal 2015 as of Feb was \$56,275.

4) Potential for 2016 - \$23,000 under for year 2016.

If we wish to keep our museum open, the cost would be \$5,600 for this fiscal year. Our situation is different because of museum closure.

All donated money would be used at museum and legal documents drawn up to specify what the state pays for and what the Friends Group wanted to pay for. If the museum is closed, costs would come down. So, spend money now or opt for closing 2 days per week.

Someone asked for option about buying back. Appraisal needed and locals could take over and a governmental transfer could be made. If the museum closes its doors as a museum, the property would revert to owners.

Jeannette Downs asked about monies allocated for engineering review and roof repair. Mrs. Durusau said we have a line of credit through a capital outlay project which Representative Chris Hazel had done. This was reactivated and the money is good to go. The study will look at the stability of the building.

Demetre Robra from New Orleans who is a state preservationist and architect came and evaluated the building. He thinks the major problem is the foundation. Over time water has collected, but once corrected, the building will be fine. Keith Hillman and Kevin Clark will do an evaluation for \$35,000.

Another concern is the wet insulation in the attic and this will compound the problem. Once foundation problems are solved, if money is left over, the money could be used for this purpose.

John DuFour is concerned about asbestos in the insulation.

A claim has been opened on the roof repair but no written report has been received.

On the drainage, we have several options. Put in new soil and/or direct water to the ditch.

Mrs. Lewis asked about locals doing the job. These must be licensed and there may be liability issues.

Bonnie Lemoine asked if we could apply for our own grants. Mrs. Durusau says there may be problems, but could not address the situation. If the building cannot be operated as a museum, the building would revert back to the Friends Group.

There being no other business, motion to adjourn was made by Jimmie Lewis, seconded by Pat Bordelon. Motion carried.

Carolyn Hataway, Secretary

CH/ml