

TIOGA HERITAGE PARK & MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
Meeting of November 17, 2016

The Tioga Historical Park & Museum Board meeting was held at the Tioga Museum on Monday, November 17, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Members present were:

Wayne Ryan
Melvyn Bowie
Sandra Bracknell

Mike Wynne
John DuFour
Melba LaCroix

Jimmie Nelle Lewis
Mary Durasau
Priscilla Bartlett

Wayne Ryan opened the meeting. Minutes of October 10 and October 20 were read. There being no corrections, a motion was made by Mike Wynne, seconded by Jimmie Nelle Lewis to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

Jeannette Downs presented the Treasurer's report. The General Fund has \$5,430.76. The Memorial Plaza account has \$2,137.75. The Barbershop has \$6,816.93. The Restoration Fund has \$5,150.00. John DuFour made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jimmie Nelle Lewis. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mary Durasau gave an update from the Secretary of State's office. There is no change. The funding will end on January 1. They will lock up the building. Keep on utilities and security. In the act of donation, it stated that if the state was unable to function as a museum, then it would be turned back over the Historical Society. At the present time there is a \$300 million deficit. It doesn't look like the incoming revenue will be able to make up the shortfall. They have until June 30th to find it. They have already taken money from Tops. People have been buying cars and durable goods because of all the flooding, but the taxes aren't showing up yet. People are selling more cars because they have to replace the cars that were flooded.

Baton Rouge and Lake Charles has a good job market with the natural gas initiative. We don't expect it to change.

Secretary Schedler and Mary are committed to be honest with all the museums. The city will take over the La. Military Hall of Fame in Abbeville. The city will take over the La. Military Museum at Ruston. The Cotton Museum in Lake Providence has a tax to support it. The Delta Museum at Ferriday is trying to negotiate with the city. Mr. Al Ader has a brain tumor and in the past has been a big supporter of the museum. The Spring Street Museum will be returned to the Colonial Dames and the Shreveport Water Works will be closing. Mary will be on the phone if anything changes.

Mike talked about the Roy O. Martin foundation. Their grants were already closed out. New grants will be available in January. Since they didn't call back to set up fundraising efforts, he doesn't think it will happen. We will have to depend on grants.

Jimmie Nelle hasn't heard anything from Cleco. Wayne thought the sooner we got the site back, the sooner we could legally be applying for grants. The next election is in April.

Mike thinks it's best to stay with the secretary of state as long as possible for them to pay for electricity, insurance and security to get us closer to the election. As long as we stay with them, we get a little money. Staying with SOS doesn't affect fund raising. Once we get mileage, it wouldn't take long to do the paperwork. Fundraising efforts would have to be done through the Historical Society since we're 501 3-C.

Mary thinks from a PR perspective, it may be better to let it close. Would create urgency. We need to ponder all the options. We need a vision. We have to have a reason to come here and have good stories to tell – whether it be timber, railroad, maneuvers.

Mike Ryan said the Dixie Youth boys from Ward 10 is getting a tax mileage for summer leagues. Perhaps we could partner with them and split the tax already in place.

John said when we separate from SOS, we would have to put up No Trespassing signs until we had liability insurance.

Bruce Kelley is working with an attorney out of New Orleans who knows about all the taxes and how it's worded. Bruce tried to get him to this meeting and he couldn't come. He has invited the Board to come to the Court House at 1 p.m. Tuesday to the Police Jury's office on the second floor.

The grant for DAR is due in December.

We wanted to kick off the Red Basket campaign. Mike thinks we should have the Police Jury's approval and date of election before we kick off the campaign.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bruce Kelley wants to have a group picture of the Board members in front of the building. For the next meeting on December 9th, come moderately dressed and take a picture in front of the building. The picture will depict the size of the building. Come at 4:00 so we will have enough light, then have our regular meeting and then the Christmas party is at 6:00 p.m. at the Tioga First Baptist Church. Turkey and ham will be provided and everyone brings casseroles, desserts, salads.

A pancake and sausage breakfast fundraiser was discussed. Need a griddle, something to keep it warm, electricity, ice coolers for orange juice, etc. We need to find a place that already has people. The Antique Store parking lot would be great when they have their venue in the parking lot. John is to check with the owner to see what it cost and see if electricity is available. We would also need a tent, tables, and chairs. We need to see if the school has senior projects or ROTC that would help.

Next steps are to get feedback on the mileage. The Union Pacific grant isn't due until March. Remember to have a picture made on December 9th on the front porch. Then a quick meeting. Also Board members not attend a meeting at Police Jury's office on November 22th at 1:00 p.m.

Motion made by Mike Wynne, seconded by Jeannette Downs to adjourn. Motion carried.

Melba LaCroix, Acting Secretary