

Abita Springs Trailhead Museum (ASTM) Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at the Museum

Minutes taken by Martha Gruning, Vice-President

Members Present: Martha Gruning, Stewart Eastman, (Emeritus), Geralyn Lips (Emeritus), Calissa Folse, Niki Mendow

Absent with notice: George Long, Courtney Blicht, Jimmy Nelson, Felicia Walker, Michelle Milner

Visiting: Katie Weaver [TOAS]

- Meeting called to order at 5:04 pm by Vice-President Martha Gruning
- Geralyn moved that minutes of the August 30, 2022 meeting be approved. Stewart seconded the motion, which was approved.

- Financial report by Niki Mendow, Treasurer

Account balance app \$41,000 as of September 21, 2022.

Not many changes for the 2023 budget. Niki, George and Martha are working on it and will submit it to the Town by October 9, the deadline. There was discussion as to how “final” the budget we submit is. It was agreed that we should provide for the events we would like to sponsor such as quarterly art shows. The ASTM Google Drive has a list of suggested events that we might sponsor. We do plan to include refinishing the museum floor in the budget. Martha suggested that we consider having a new updated brochure about the Town designed and printed. The Town must approve the budget before the Museum can adopt it.

Unfinished Business

- Storytime/interactive nature series: Calissa sent a link to board members for the book Karen Wallsten uses for the sessions. Martha reported that Karen may sell books during the educational sessions. If we plan to pay Karen, we will have the Town help us draw up a contract for her services. Niki will put two sessions in the fall and two in the spring at \$100 per session.

ACTION ITEM: Calissa will speak with Karen re: dates for sessions.

- Martha reported that she emailed Town Hall regarding a docent appreciation gathering for Museum volunteers and Cajun Dance volunteers. Janet did not give her an answer re: a museum-only event but said that the Town is planning for a volunteer appreciation event for the entire Town [?]. At the next meeting, Martha would like the board to vote on having the Museum event. She is willing to host it and will make arrangements for food and drink to be donated if we are unable to use any of the funds in our museum bank account.

ACTION ITEM: take vote at next meeting.

- Ron is not present. Martha will follow up on this.

ACTION ITEM: Martha will see if Ron can follow up.

- Fall Fest is November 4-5. The Museum can receive \$500 from Fall Fest proceeds if we get enough volunteers to sign up. Volunteers can sign up online at the Fall Fest site. The Museum is not scheduled to be opened on Saturday but could be opened on Friday since the festival does not start until the evening. We can check and see what time the music starts on Saturday and if possible be open a couple of hours.

ACTION ITEM: make a decision re: the Museum being open on Saturday during Fall Fest.

- Calissa is willing to chair the October 19th meeting. Martha will prepare the agenda based on action items set.

- Martha has met with one floor refinisher, Mark Ragusa, and is waiting on his bid. She will get two more bids as required by Town Hall in order for the board to select a bid.

New Business

- Mary Davis has suggested that the Museum host an end-of-the-year student art show with participants from nearby high schools following the En Plein Air event.

ACTION ITEM: Discuss this in November when absent members have returned and set a date if we decide that we want to host this show.

- Martha has created a file on Google Drive for Museum financial statements.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35, moved by Stewart, seconded by Niki.

Next board meeting is scheduled for 5pm on Wednesday, October 19.

Upcoming events of note:

Fall Fest 2022 - November 4-5