

October 16, 2024
Abita Springs Trailhead Museum
Minutes

The meeting of the Abita Springs Trailhead Museum Board was held and called to order by President Lauren Crout on October 16, 2024 at 6:05 p.m.

Members were present: Lauren Crout, Jason MacFetters, Niki Mendow, Stewart Eastman, and Kimberly Irizarry. Members emeritus Martha Gruning and Ron Blich was also present. Board member Keitisha Young, Felicia Walker, and Melissa Smith was absent.

Secretary Kimberly Irizarry sent out the minutes from the September 2024 meeting prior to the October meeting. Niki Mendow made a motion to accept the minutes; it was seconded, motion carried.

Niki Mendow presented and handed out copies of the financial report for the month of September. She discussed the account activity for the month, the balance and most recent accounting for Cajun Dance, Fallfest, and donations.

Old Business -

Digitization Project:

Lauren read a report for Melissa to update the Board. Jason and Melissa interviewed Ms. Sanchez for the digitization position and the next step is for the Mayor to met with her and that will be set up with the two of them. Also met with Dan Curtis about the collection and if the collections committee could visit the storage area in town hall and have a Collections Committee meeting to discuss next steps. Jason said that the meetings went well and that they are progressing with the process. Jason answered several questions about the next steps from the board.

Alan Flattmann Update:

Lauren had the update for the board. The exhibit was moved to the 15th - 30th of November due to several timing issues that would work better and be able to have an opening reception on the 15th from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m for Mr. Flattmann. She also reported that the breakdown will be 70% to Mr. Flattmann, 20% to the Carol Robinson Gallery, and 10% to the Museum. Mary Davis will be curating the exhibit. Ron suggested that Ms.Davis talk to Mary Monk about the tools needed for hanging the art in the museum due to the fact that the wood on the display panels is very hard. Stewart Eastman mentioned that with the change of the dates for the exhibition that the Men's Club movie night will be displaced and might need to move the dates that they would need the Museum on a different night. Jason mentioned that the Christmas Village in December might also interrupt the Men's Club movie night. Lauren asked if the board would be willing to

open the museum on the 21st for an extra day of exhibition and that the ending Sunday would be for art distribution and closing. We then discussed the various stages of set up for the reception and asked who would be interested in volunteering for certain jobs. Niki mentioned that selling each day might pose an issue using the Square. Lauren said that having training for docents so that sales could be processed throughout the exhibition. Ron talked about turning the displays with the steps that need to take place, labels, master book for sales and the big binder that is used for En Plein Air so that Niki would be able to easily check off the pieces that have sold. Lauren discussed purchasing food for the reception, that the alcohol would need to be donated, and the different docents that have reached out for different shifts during the exhibition.

En Plein Air 2025 Dates:

The dates for En Plein Air will be April 11th - 13th, 2025. Kick off will really start in earnest early in January 2025.

New Business:

Choctaw Display Changes:

Stewart Eastman discussed the changes that need to be updated/corrected. He spoke of the importance of stick ball and it's cultural importance to the Choctaw people. He showed the Board how the game worked. Mary Davis created and researched the information on each of the displays and that we would need to loop her in on any changes. It was suggested to add more to the display in the empty glass cases for January/February with nice labels for each of the items. Ron and Martha thought that the displays were \$10,000 - \$15,000. Maybe look into adding QR codes to supply additional information for the items. Would Mary be interested in researching changes/ revisiting all the boxes?

Also discuss how the name of the town came about and that it is not a Choctaw word but it was noted that there is no definitive source for this statement.

Halloween Night:

The town is having Halloween in the park. Is the Museum going to participate? It was discussed and decided that we not participate this year.

Field Trips:

Lauren has had calls from Folsom Elementary and the Home School community come to the museum and discuss the history. Stewart said that he would help if it was a date that he was available and Martha said that she would be glad to help.

Master Plan for the Town:

Stewart also brought up the possibility of changes to the master plan of town. He suggested that we go to the meetings and voice our opinion. It was discussed if the Museum would or should have an opinion about what the town is proposing for the Trace "zone". We will keep an eye on the situation and make sure that we do not lose the Historic District of the town.

Ray Buuck Painting:

Ray Buuck's daughter, Michelle is moving to New York and has about 6 paintings for sale. Ron suggested we add them to next year's En Plein Air and hold them on display in Townhall.

Abita Princess for the Square:

Thoughts about a capital improvement amount for the town and to discuss at next month's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.