

August 21, 2024  
Abita Springs Trailhead Museum  
Minutes

The meeting of the Abita Springs Trailhead Museum Board was held and called to order by Vice President Jason MacFetters on August 21, 2024 at 6:03 p.m.

Members were present: Jason MacFetters, Niki Mendow, Felicia Walker, Keitisha Young, Melissa Smith, and Kimberly Irizarry. Two board members were absent, Lauren Crout and Stewart Eastman.

Members emeritus Martha Gruning and Ron Blitch were present as was Docent George Long.

Secretary Kimberly Irizarry sent out the minutes from the May 2024 meeting prior to the August meeting. Jason MacFetters 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 July. She discussed the account activity for the month, the balance and most recent accounting for Cajun Dance.

**Old Business -**

**En Plein Air 2025 Dates:**

The dates of April 11th - 13th are available if we want to check our calendars so that we can discuss at the September meeting but Ron told the group that Mary Monk that hangs the show, as well as, other jobs possibly has an out of town commitment that weekend. It was also noted that is also Palm Sunday, Ron suggested checking the weekend before April 4th - 6th as a back up which George noted that Sunday would be Buskerfest, so a third set of dates were suggested to check as a third choice back up, the week after Easter, April 25th - 27th, 2025. Jason made notes and said that he would follow up with the town.

**Archival Project:**

Melissa Smith caught us up to date with a discussion with one of her colleagues (Bill Robison) looking to hire someone to aid in the cataloging and he was very receptive to the idea and he also suggested interns. Melissa gave him the basics of the position and also the areas of training that the student would gain in the position. She is optimistic about hiring someone seeing as it at the very start of the school year. A meeting of the committee will occur in the next couple of weeks to discuss the steps on moving forward with possibly the town but the major emphasis will be on the proper paperwork that the Museum needs to run as a museum with collections. Melissa wants to meet with the mayor and to see what the town has that we(the Board) may not be aware of.

On a side note, we and our docents have been issued an invitation from Amistad Research Center to view their work at the Center.

Melissa would love to have an oral history program. It would be a wonderful opportunity/addition to the town and the Museum.

Members of the committee were confirmed.

### **Alan Flattman Update:**

The exhibit will be held November 1st - 10th and Lauren is contacting the family about when would be the best time for a reception either at the opening or at the closing of the exhibit. We have not heard back as to what would be best. Questions were asked about whether or not there will be sales during the exhibit and a reminder that we must notify the town before any sales could happen during the exhibition. Jason also reminded us that even though an exact date of the reception has not been set, please be thinking about what details the reception would need.

### **Fall 2024:**

Only item on the calendar at this point is the Alan Flattman Exhibit but we have not had a firm discussion about Christmas and the Christmas Village display. That is our display and there will be time enough to get that scheduled. George talked about the Christmas Village display and what all it entails and Martha also seconded that though the display was a 3 day job to set up, stage, and light. Though it has been made easier with upgrades to the museum over the years, usually the same people set it up year after year. The Christmas Village is a huge hit with adults as well as children during the Christmas season.

### **Museum Shift Coverage:**

Jason discusses the importance of always looking and asking for people to be docents and encouraging the docents we have to keep checking the weekend spreadsheet to work different shifts. Melissa asked if the Sunday shift will continue to be earlier or would it go back to the usual time? General discussion was that members thought after the worst of the heat was over the Farmers Market would go back to the usual time. Melissa asked about an info table in the Farmers Market but it was stated that in the past that has not been very fruitful in creating new docents. Martha and George discussed maybe asking other organizations if they want to sit in at a table to discuss their group when people ask. Or maybe see if the town could create a list of the different organizations so that people who are interested can see all of the different opportunities to volunteer. George discussed a volunteer list that he created a couple of years ago in google drive link with names, addresses, email addresses and interest.

### **Cajun Dance:**

Angie from the town called Jason about the refrigerators that were used and how one was a Coke refrigerator. Unfortunately, there is not enough Coke ordered each month to warrant Coke

keeping a refrigerator in the town hall and that they are coming to take it back. It costs more to order Coke than it does to just pick up the same amount at Costco or Sam's. Plus that refrigerator is only used/needed for Cajun Dance and so Angie wanted to know if the Museum would be able to donate/purchase a refrigerator for our beverages. Jason asked if anyone knows of a lead on getting a used refrigerator that someone would want to get rid of? And that we need to be mindful of the fact that town hall will be undergoing a renovation in the next year to two years, so the refrigerator would only need to be a modest one knowing that it will be replaced. Martha may know of one, let her check. Jason proposed to set an amount of \$1200.00 to purchase a refrigerator and pay for delivery/set up unless Martha can get a donated one. Martha said that she would get on that and let Jason know quickly if she can find one. Jason suggested a standard refrigerator or what we might call a "garage refrigerator", Felicia made a motion to use up to \$1200.00 if Martha can't find one to be donated, Melissa seconded the motion and the vote was as follows: Jason - yes, Melissa - yes, Niki - yes, Keitisha - yes, Felicia - yes, Kimberly - yes. Motion passed.

#### **New Business:**

Kimberly announced to the group that she would be moving back to Arkansas at the end of the year and that someone would have to take over the duties of secretary of the museum board for December 2024 and for the 2025 year.

Melissa made a motion to adjourn and Felicia seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:41p.m. Vote was unanimous.