

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Monday, February 9, 2015  
12:30 PM – The Old U.S. Mint  
New Orleans, Louisiana**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum was called to order by Chairman Michael M. Davis at 12:30 PM at The Old U.S. Mint in New Orleans. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Jerry F. Adams; Madlyn B. Bagneris; Robert A. Barnett; Myrna B. Bergeron; Charles R. Davis; Michael M. Davis; Rosemary Upshaw Ewing; Allen J. “AJ” Gibbs; Jeffrey Pipes Guice; Janet V. Haedicke, Ph.D.; Kevin Kelly; Thomas Frère Kramer, M.D.; Aleta Leckelt; William J. Perret, M.D.; Lawrence N. Powell, Ph.D.; Anne F. Redd; and William J. Wilton, Jr.

Members Absent: Sharon Turcan Gahagan; Donna Winters; Philip Woollam; and Diane K. Zink

Also Present: Mark A Tullos, Jr., Director, Louisiana State Museum

**Adoption of Agenda**

Ms. Ewing MOVED, seconded Dr. Haedicke, to adopt the agenda. **Unanimously approved.**

**Minutes**

The minutes from the December 8, 2014 meeting were distributed in advance. Dr. Haedicke MOVED, seconded by Dr. Powell, to approve the December 8, 2014 LSM Board minutes. **Unanimously approved.**

**Chairman's Report**

Mr. M. Davis said that newly appointed Board member could not attend the Board meeting as planned. She twisted an ankle. She already took the Oath of Office so she is an official Board member. She does plan to attend the March meeting.

Mr. M. Davis introduced Captain Melvin Gilbert. Mr. Gilbert spoke briefly to the Board. He is a retired Lieutenant with the New Orleans Police Department with 30 years of service. He looks forward to working with everyone. Chief Clarence Landrum will stay on with the museum until June, 2015 when he will retire.

Mr. M. Davis stated the following meeting dates:

- Next Irby/Finance Committee Meeting: March 9, 2015, 10:30 AM
- Next LSM Board Meeting: March 9, 2015, 12:30 PM
- Next Collections Committee Meeting: April 8, 2015, 1:00 PM

### **Director's Report**

Mr. Tullos referenced his report in the packets. He paused to thank the staff for all their hard work with the opening of the Battle of New Orleans (BONO) exhibit, as well as staff at the other museums who were patient while we concentrated on the BONO opening. While the Cabildo was closed, we cleaned the exhibit space thoroughly and painted in areas where needed.

The Revolution exhibit closes at end of February in Baton Rouge.

Mr. Tullos gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the cleaning and staff Christmas luncheon. Mr. Tullos asked Mr. McGraw to speak to the Board about the Genealogy Roadshow and new LSM website. Mr. McGraw spoke to the Board about the Genealogy Roadshow on PBS which was broadcast nationally from the Cabildo. It was a great success and they plan to come back. Dr. Powell asked if there are links on the LSM website to the show and Mr. McGraw said no, but he will work on that.

The new website is up and running and it is working very well. So far, the LSM has gotten over 7,000 site visits and 4,000 repeat visits. The virtual tours aspect of the website is doing very well. The calendar is up as well. The beauty of the website is that we have control over it. Dr. Powell asked about a link to the Louisiana Historical Center and Mr. McGraw said we are working on that as well as information about our partnerships with the National Park Service and Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Ms. Burke said she would like to see updates on visitations to the website on a monthly basis.

Mr. Tullos said there is new signage in front of the Cabildo on Jackson Square, which we will expand to the other buildings too.

Mr. Tullos said we also are now able to publicly recognize the private donations which make the exhibits happen on the front of our buildings and on our website now.

The opening day of the BONO exhibit was very well attended by the public.

The LSM education staff across the State is doing a great job but we are losing our staff to other organizations. One of the LSM educators just left to take a job with the WWII Museum.

Finally, in the Director's Report on the last page are updates on buildings and Capital Improvements.

Mr. Wheat said all windows at the Mint will be getting re-glazed and the Madame John's Legacy conservation project will begin in March, 2015.

The LSM staff helped repair the flagstones in front of the Cabildo and Presbytere. Mr. Tullos said the curators, plumbers, carpenters and security work very hard and go over and above.

### **Irby/Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Barnett said *Violet's* at 808 Chartres was concerned about loss of business. They initially asked for both a rental and overage abatement for the months affected. They then adjusted their request to ask only for overage abatement during affected months. The scaffolding has now moved to St. Ann Street and the work continues. *Violet's* still made a profit, but those profits were down. The Irby/Finance Committee decided to wait until the roof project was complete for the entire Pontalba building before making a decision on any abatements.

A request was made by the State to Irby (due to mid-year budget cuts) that Irby assist by paying utilities for the New Orleans properties out of its profits. The Committee rejected this measure because they felt it would be an annual process of dipping into the profits.

Lastly, the tenant at 519 St. Ann, 2nd floor requested to add his daughter's name to the lease as a permanent occupant. As a permanent occupant, she would only be allowed to stay in the apartment. Should the current tenant die, the daughter would only have rights to stay in the apartment until expiration of the current lease. Ms. Ewing MOVED, seconded by Mr. Wilton, to approve the request to add Mr. Lambert's daughter to the lease as a permanent occupant. **Unanimously approved.**

Mr. R. Davis spoke about the State budget and their request for \$75,000 of Irby funds to cover New Orleans utilities to adjust for the mid-year budget cuts. He said it will probably be less than the requested amount. DCRT took a \$3.5 million cut for the remaining half year. State Parks had to let go 111 employees and closures may occur. Right now, the State Museum system is being supported with Tourism funds for the Natchitoches property. DCRT is looking at major cuts for the upcoming fiscal year, which may cause closure of some properties or cut back on hours. Mr. R. Davis said he hopes the LSM Board can look at what Irby can do to support the museum.

Ms. Ewing feels once Irby approves funds, it might have to repeatedly give its support to further cuts. She doesn't think Irby has the funds needed to perpetually support cuts.

Mr. Barnett said he interprets the Irby Will as wanting to support the upkeep of the Pontalba property and general use for museum purposes. Mr. R. Davis said he feels there will have to be some participation by Irby to help out if needed.

Mr. M. Davis said all Board members are invited to attend the Irby and other meetings. This way they can hear all of the detailed discussions. Dr. Powell asked how do we stabilize the funding stream into the Museum system. He sees us facing these problems more and more often. We need to grow our endowment. Mr. Kelly said with the looming cuts, they may need to take a business approach and look at closing some lesser performing buildings, or raise Irby rents, which he feels are low right now. Mr. Kelly said he would like to see the apartments. Mr. Wheat said they are in good shape. Mr. Adams said he agrees with Mr. Kelly and, because we have such a long waiting list, we should look at rental rates.

### **Collections Committee Report**

Dr. Perret said the report went out in advance. There is one particular loan that Mr. Tullos asked Katie Burlison to talk about.

Ms. Burlison said she was approached by MS Rau Antiques about donating an armoire to us from Rosedown Plantation. It was made for Henry Clay. It is made of Brazilian rosewood and has the original blue paint inside. LSM will display it at the Cabildo on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. We have a bust of Henry Clay and can display the two together, telling stories around the piece. It will be disassembled and then reassembled, while taking pictures of the progress. Mr. Kelly reiterated that this is a great piece worth a lot of money.

A press release will be sent out very soon. Mr. Kelly suggested some art magazines do a piece on it and we will be sure to give recognition to MS Rau.

Ms. Bagneris MOVED, seconded by Dr. Haedicke, to approve the Collections Committee Report. **Unanimously approved.**

After a year and a half of discussion, Mr. M. Davis said that there was a unanimous decision to keep the loan policy (regarding loans to elected officials) as is.

### ***Friends of the Cabildo Report***

Ms. Burke gave the report.

The January volunteer hours 273.00 Hours, which equates to \$5,277.09 @\$19.33/hour (Department of Labor).

The January walking tours were 269 for a total income of \$4,929.00.

The Battle of New Orleans events surrounding the opening of the Museum's newest exhibit at the Cabildo was a huge success with 85 people attending the first symposium, held at the Mint. The FOC would like to thank Larry Powell for his guidance on speakers for the event and the Museum for allowing the FOC to host it. They are proud to announce that the next symposium will take place on December 12, 2015 and will be based on Storyville.

The exhibit opening later that evening was also successful for the members-only opening as over 250 members and guests showed up for the event. The FOC thanked the LSM staff for being so accommodating and being on hand to answer any questions that the members had.

Upcoming for the next month will be the annual walking tour guide training class starting March 2<sup>nd</sup>. This class allows the FOC to put new tour guides on the street and they are proud to announce that this year's class is completely full with 24 new students.

Finally, the Adult History Class, which sold out with 75 people last year for the 5-week class has been announced again and they will be doing the Neighborhoods of New Orleans again with Joyce

Miller and Karen Leathem of the LSM and John Magill of the Historic New Orleans Collection. The class starts May 17<sup>th</sup>- June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Mint.

### ***Louisiana Museum Foundation Report***

Ms. Maclay said audit report was given out previously. She distributed pie chart of comparable information from last year with this year. The comparable report of pie charts and graphs is attached. Ms. Tullos said that the LMF endowment proceeds are growing and if endowment keeps getting bigger, LSM could count on that to supplement shortfalls.

Ms. Maclay then reported on the Foundation's Bicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans gala which took place on Friday, January 9 in the Cabildo. She noted estimates were that 450 were in attendance, many of which came in period attire. To date, the event and fundraising efforts for the Battle of New Orleans exhibit has brought in \$199,485, plus \$45,000 in memberships and \$45,000 in direct exhibition contributions, and that there is still \$85,000 outstanding in pledges. Expenses currently stand at approximately \$55,000.

There were no questions and Ms. Maclay concluded the Foundation's report.

### ***E.D. White Historic House Report***

Ms. Leckelt said that tentatively on April 11<sup>th</sup> there will be a plaque dedication ceremony in honor of William Peltier from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. He donated the cost to build the outdoor kitchen.

There is a college student from France who wants to intern at the House. She also hopes to bring back Lafourche Heritage Day.

### ***Wedell-Williams Aviation and Cypress Sawmill Museum Report***

Mr. Stark said they are hoping to develop the education room. Also, the weekend of April 11 is the Cypress Sawmill Festival.

### ***Capitol Park Museum***

Saturday, February 14 is the Spanish Town parade party. Also, Greg Johnson (Curator) was recognized in his home town of New Rhodes for his volunteer work as a Fireman and with children's programs.

### ***Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum Report***

The opening reception for the Clementine Hunter exhibit will be on Saturday, March 28.

### ***New Business***

Ms. Bagneris discussed the Civil Rights Museum project. They are looking for private funds to get a building in place. Their group still meets to discuss strategies and hopes one day to be funded.

Mr. Barnett would like to look at the commercial lease structure. Mr. M. Davis appointed Mr. Kelly, Ms. Zink, and Mr. Barnett to look at substantive changes they wish to be made. Mr. R. Davis also suggested Ms. Moore (DCRT Counsel) be involved.

Dr. Kramer said that the painting job of the 2nd floor windows that face Jackson Square on the Cabildo and Presbytere was not done well. He thinks the paint needs to be scraped off the mullions. Mr. Tullos said that figures into the architect plans for renovating the fronts of those buildings and he thinks a lot of the paint problem is on the exterior.

Adjournment at 2:15 PM.