

Fairhope Museum of History Advisory Board Meeting
April 3, 2019
2:30 pm @ Fairhope Museum of History

Prior to calling the meeting to order, three museum professionals from the Alabama State Department of Archives and the Museum of Alabama spoke to the group about the work of museums and resources available to help small facilities like ours. They gave information about the State's Bicentennial celebration, the work of the State Archives and took question from the Board and the audience. Finally they encouraged everyone to visit the State Archives and Museum in Montgomery.

Attendance

- Paul Czajka– Board member since 2017
- Wayne Brunson– Board member since approximately 2015
- Louie Blaze– Board member since 2019
- Catherine King– Board member since 2008
- Oliver Gilmore– Board member since 2019
- Darby Wiik– Museum Interim Director City of Fairhope
- Jack Burrell – City Council Liaison

Absent:

John Taratsas– Board member since ~2008 (John emailed the museum regarding his absence)
Sherry-Lea Botoop– Director of Economic & Community Development City of Fairhope

Supplementary Materials distributed:

- Agenda
- Current budget
- Attendance figures
- February minutes

Minutes

- Ms. King verified a quorum was reached called the meeting to order at 2:40 pm.
- Motion was made to approve minutes from the last meeting. Approved.
- Ms. King noted that the By-Laws stipulate that the Board will seven appointed members. There is one vacancy at present. Discussion followed about individuals Board members knew who might be interested in serving. King will approach a respected individual about membership. Ms. King said it is likely the FSTC President is not aware of his position is an ex-officio board member and that he should be notified. Ms. Wiik will contact FSTC regarding this.
- Ms. King has reviewed Board By-Laws and recommends they should be updated. Board members agreed and King will present a revised draft at the next meeting for review and discussion.
- Ms. King noted the City's website has not been updated to reflect the current Board membership and Ms. Wiik added that the meeting minutes should also be posted online. Ms. Wiik will contact the City Clerk's office about these corrections/additions.
- An update about Museum staffing was on the agenda, but Mrs. Botoop, the representative assigned to the Board from the Mayor's office, was unable to attend the meeting. General discussion followed about the urgent need to fill the director position as soon as possible, followed by the assistant position, so that the Museum will be fully staffed.
- Mr. Blaze brought up the issue of the Museum's copy machine. The Friends group pays for the copier lease and is interested in reducing or eliminating this cost (so as to use Friends funds to support other Museum projects), but agree the Museum staff must have a quality copier suited to their needs. Mr. Burrell said the cost of the lease and maintenance on the copier probably could probably be paid by the City and

recommended the Museum submit a proposal to the City Council to take up the cost of the monthly lease. Mr. Brunson made a motion – seconded by Mr. Blaze – all were in favor - to ask the City Council to take up the matter of signing a new lease for a museum copier. Ms. Wiik said she would contact the copier company to get a proposal.

- Ms. King said she would like the Advisory Board to consider how best to fulfill its role and be of service and support to the Museum. When the aforementioned review of the By-Laws is made, this issue will be addressed.
- Mr. Burrell reported that the Architectural Review Board voted in their last meeting to approve funding for an assessment of the Welcome Center building (which includes the Museum’s archive space). Members voiced their concern about having a safe and convenient place for the Museum’s collection.
- Ms. King announced the annual Satsuma Blossom Festival, sponsored by the Friends group, will be held on April 13. In addition this August 26th is the seventy-fifth anniversary of Barney Gaston’s assault from the air on a German take line approaching Sivry, France during WWII. His actions resulted in his hero’s death and saving the town from occupation. From the audience, Jerry Fortis suggested the weekly guest speaker program might include someone doing a talk on Barney Gaston.
- The next Board meeting is Wednesday, July 10th. *Please note this date, as incorrect information was distributed at this April 4 meeting.*
- Mr. Brunson made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Czajka seconded.
- Meeting was adjourned at 3:24 pm.

**The next meeting of the City of Fairhope Museum Advisory Board
is Wednesday, July 10 at 3 p.m. at the Museum.**

[END] – Catherine King & Darby Wiik 4/24/2019